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Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Is your holiday spending going to increase, remain the same, or decrease this year compared to last year's?

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PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS

PHASE 6

As of December 9, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Massacre Suspects

Philippine police have identified 161 suspects in the massacre of 57 people last month in a southern province.

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New Attacks

A suicide car bomb flattened a court building and an explosives-rigged ambulance blew down walls in Iraq during a wave of attacks.

WORLD...Page 16

Two more NI voters are disqualified, one upheld. **PAGE 3**

14 percent drop in the CNMI's toxic releases—EPA. **PAGE 5**

USCIS seeks new comments on transitional worker rules

HOW TO COMMENT

E-mail: rfs.regs@dhs.gov.

Each comment must include DHS Docket No. USCIS-2008-0038 in the subject line

Mail: Chief, Regulatory Products Division
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services,
Department of Homeland Security
111 Massachusetts Avenue, NW., Suite 3008,
Washington, DC 20529-2210

To ensure proper handling, reference DHS Docket No. USCIS-2008-0038 on the correspondence.

Quick link: www.uscis.gov/cnmi

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has reopened the comment period for the interim final rule on the CNMI Transitional Worker Classification, giving a bit of reprieve to a community still grappling with changes brought by the federal takeover of CNMI immigration since Nov. 28.

The additional 30-day comment period will close on Jan. 7, 2010.

USCIS is one of the component agencies of the U.S. Department of Homeland Secu-

See USCIS on Page 4

Rape at Tinian cemetery

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Two men were arrested on Tuesday for allegedly raping an intoxicated woman at a cemetery on Tinian in the early morning hours of Saturday.

Joseph Ray Arriola Jr., 20, and Kurt B. King, 29, were brought to the

See RAPE on Page 4

Judge upholds Rota election results

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja upheld yesterday the Nov. 7 election results for the House of Representatives and mayoral races on Rota.

Naraja dismissed the election contest filed by Ross Hugh Songao Manglona and Rep. Victor Borja Hocog, the two losing candidates for the House and mayoral races. The two sought a recount of votes.

See JUDGE on Page 4

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Warrant Officer 1 Bernard L. Aguon, left, and Staff Sgt. Gonzalo L. Fernandez, right, recruiting and retention non-commissioned officer, pose with other members of the Guam Army National Guard, which has started recruiting CNMI residents who will become "pioneer" members from the Northern Marianas.

For first time, Guam Guard recruiting CNMI residents

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

For the first time in CNMI history, eligible individuals here are being recruited to join the Guam Army National Guard. If the plan pans out, the unit expects initial swearing-in of "pioneer" CNMI members in January 2010.

See GUAM GUARD on Page 4

What is a
Material Point?
A Material Point is a specific issue
to which evidence is presented in
determining guilt regarding an
alleged wrongdoing.
A claim is Material because o
contractual relationship and th
ability to make claims for
reimbursement for costs incur

PROACTIVE APPROACH

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Special agent Michael J. Janiga of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Inspector General provides training for some 20 individuals in the conference room of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. yesterday afternoon. The presentation included discussions on the role of the EPA-OIG in the oversight of federal stimulus money made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, as well as pointers for preventing, detecting and reporting fraud, waste and abuse of ARRA money. The agency is taking a proactive approach to provide educational, outreach and investigative services to recipients of EPA stimulus funds, including CNMI agencies.

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Local

NMC faculty nixes 'indefinite contract' plan

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Members of the Northern Marianas College faculty have voted to reject the indefinite contract being proposed by the college's management due to what they called "unacceptable" conditions in the termination and non-renewal of employees.

The indefinite contract for faculty and employees was initiated five years ago during the term of Danny Wyatt as Faculty Senate president. Its main objective is to give employees job security. The plan was never acted on by previous NMC leaderships.

Saipan Tribune learned that the plan was revived in September under the watch of Dr. Carmen Fernandez.

Highly placed sources at the college said, however, that faculty members turned down the president's version of the indefinite contract proposal due to unacceptable provisions.

Faculty Senate president Larry Lee confirmed that a faculty committee is now reviewing the management's contract proposal and seeking legal advice on the matter.

"It is the same movement initiated five years ago," Lee said when asked if the faculty wants any changes to the proposal.

He said a formal response to the management proposal will be decided in their next faculty assemblies.

The faculty wants the indefinite contract proposal to only allow the termination of employees if there is valid reason and cause.

Under existing NMC policy, a college faculty is provided a two-year employment contract, with a provision that he or she can be terminated with cause and that non-renewal of contracts requires no reason.

Under the management's proposed indefinite contract, any employee who has been the subject of a complaint—or even minor issues—can be terminated. The non-renewal provision will remain the same, which will require no reason and cannot be appealed. Renewal decisions will remain based on an evaluation conducted by the management.

Lee said the current rash of non-renewals and termination of college employees makes it the best time to push for the job security of long-time qualified employees.

The latest on the list of department chairs and instructors whose contracts were not renewed since last year is Current Issues class instructor Sam McPhetres, who has been with the college for over 20 years.

Among the long-time employees whose contracts were not renewed this year included department chairs Glenn Keaton and Mark Haag.

'Quality of NMC's instruction unaffected by the vacancies'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Carmen Fernandez said yesterday that the college's quality of instruction remains consistently high despite current vacancies in key positions. Instructional operations also continue to run normally at the college, she said.

NMC yet to appoint a permanent dean for Student Services and five other department chairpersons. The institution has a total of three deans and six department heads for its academic programs. Currently, two are serving in permanent positions—Tee Abraham for Community Programs and Services, Cynthia Deleon Guerrero for Academic Programs—while one is in an acting capacity, Leo Pangelinan, for Student Services.

In a statement issued yesterday, Fernandez said that two of the five vacant department chair positions will be filled later this month.

"NMC is committed to providing a high quality education to its students, and we are working to ensure that our classes, student services, and other college activities are not interrupted by any of the vacancies we have," she said.

The two newly hired chairpersons are for the Department of Languages and Humanities and for the Science, Math, Health, and Athletics Department. The two positions were previously held by Mark Haag and Glenn Keaton, whose contracts were not renewed early this year.

"The newly-hired individuals will begin their employment at the college later this month and will be ready to engage students before the start of the Spring semester," said Fernandez.

She said that NMC's human resource office is working hard to recruit highly qualified individuals to fill key positions.

Three departments have yet to have permanent chairpersons: Nursing, School of Education, and the Business departments.

Of the college's six departments, only the Social Science and Fine Arts departments have a permanent chair, Frank Sobolewski.

NMC also has vacancies in its instructional faculty and other positions.

NMC is home to nearly a thousand enrollees.

Fernandez said they are working on attracting and hiring the best candidates for its team and those interested in applying for jobs at the college can visit the NMC Human Resource Office or log on to the NMC Web site to see posted vacancies.

"While the recruitment process is underway for certain vacancies, NMC students and community members can expect to receive the usual exceptional service and assistance from all faculty and staff," added Fernandez.

Drunk man allegedly attacks another with samurai sword

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Police arrested Tuesday night a man who allegedly attacked a computer technician with a samurai sword in Chalan Kanoa last month.

Kios Rudolph, 21, also known as Hius Rudolph, was taken to the Superior Court yesterday for assault with a dangerous weapon, and assault and battery.

Associate Judge Perry B. Inos imposed an initial $50,000 cash bail for Rudolph.

The victim, Xing Wang, an employee of the Mac Internet Café, sustained a deep cut in the right forearm. He was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center where he required stitches to close the wound.

In his report, Detective Peter A. Aldan stated that Wang had opened the Mac Internet in Chalan Kanoa around midnight of Nov. 22 to let in two known customers.

Rudolph, who was carrying a samurai sword and appeared very drunk, was walking on the road near the Mac Internet and was shouting profanities.

Rudolph saw Wang at the corner of the Mac Internet building, ran toward him, and tried to hit him with the sword. The victim managed to step back but Rudolph again swung the sword, hitting the victim on the right forearm.

The injured Wang ran inside the establishment and locked the front entrance.

Rudolph then approached a girl who was walking on the road. A witness shouted at Rudolph to leave the girl alone.

Rudolph also approached other passersby, who all ran away. Rudolph then left the area.

Witnesses said the defendant appeared very drunk.

Medics transported Wang to CHC.

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Two more NI voters are disqualified, one upheld

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David Wiseman disqualified yesterday two Northern Islands voters and upheld one as the court battle for a single vote in the mayoral race continued.

The disqualification now brings to 12 the total number of Northern Islands' votes that were struck from the mayoralty contest.

Wiseman, however, found CNMI national golfer Jesus I. Wabol qualified as a Northern Islands voter. The judge earlier upheld two voters.

Robert Torres, counsel for Northern Islands mayor-elect Tobias Dela Cruz Aldan, objected to the manner with which attorney Richard W. Pierce, counsel for losing candidate Ramona Taisakan Rebuenog, cross-examined one of the two disqualified voters. Torres said the questions were irrelevant.

Among the issues that Torres objected to was when Pierce stated that the voter was lying.

"He [Pierce] is calling his own witness a liar! There has to be a ground for impeachment of a witness. This court has to protect the voter's right!" Torres said.

When Pierce was done with his examination, Torres asked the witness if she appreciates being called a liar.

The witness quickly replied "No."

Wiseman immediately called Torres, Pierce, and Commonwealth Election Commission counsel Michael Ernest to his chamber.

When the hearing resumed, Pierce called Wabol to the witness stand.

The hearing will continue Tuesday.

Rebuenog lost to Aldan by a single vote.

Aldan, an independent candidate, received 68 votes, while Rebuenog, who ran under the Covenant Party, got 67 votes. This prompted Rebuenog to move for a recount of votes.

During the recounting, CEC determined the same result and certified that Aldan had won the race.

'Minimal costs for transition, inauguration'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Re-elected Gov. Benigno R. Fitial expects minimal costs for transition and inauguration.

"Since the administration that is being transitioned is their administration, this transition will be a bit different. The focus will be on reviewing their mission, assessing what has been accomplished, what still needs to be accomplished and improving the state of the Commonwealth. We expect that any budget for transition will be minimal," said Teresa Kim, legal counsel for Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos and who serves as interim press secretary.

Fitial, 64, is the second governor in CNMI history to be re-elected, along with former Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio.

Kim said yesterday that while this was an historic election and although Fitial is only the second governor in the history of the CNMI to be re-elected, the administration would like to minimize expenses to the government.

The inauguration is set for Jan. 11, 2010.

One of the ways to cut government expenses is by soliciting donations and working with business partners, Kim said.

When Fitial was first elected into office in 2005, his then Office of the Governor-Elect received $55,000 for its operations during the transition period in accordance with the Executive Transition Act. The inauguration ceremonies at the time were also budgeted at $200,000.

Fitial appointed Covenant Party chair Gregorio "Kachuma" Camacho chairman of the Transition Committee, and former Public Safety Commissioner Clyde Norita as vice chair.

Congratulations

Fitial has received congratulatory calls and letters from many individuals since he sealed his victory over Republican Heinz S. Hofschneider on Monday.

Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho called Fitial to extend his congratulations. CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan and Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo also sent him congratulatory letters and issued statements.

Other phone calls were received from former Rep. Jesus T. Attao, Rota Mayor Joseph S. Inos, former senator Ed Maratita, Rota mayor-elect Melchor Mendiola and businessman JM Guerrero.

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JOB FAIR

Rota & Tinian

Dates, Times and Locations to complete an application and be tested are as follows:

Rota	Tinian
Monday, December 14th – 2:00pm – 7:00pm	Monday, December 21st – 2:00pm – 7:00pm
Tuesday, December 15th – 9:00am – 12:00noon	Tuesday, December 22nd – 9:00am – 12:00noon
Rota NMC Campus	Tinian NMC Campus

Testing will be offered approximately every hour for applicants with a completed application. Please bring a picture ID in order to complete the testing on the day of the Job Fair. Practice tests are available on the 2010 Census Website at ***http://2010.census.gov/2010censusjobs/pdf/Practice_Test.pdf***

A police clearance is not needed to apply and will be completed prior to employment if selected, along with a mandatory drug screening. Both the police clearance and the drug screening costs will be reimbursed after hire. Other US Census employment requirements are as follows:

- Must be at least 18 years old and a high school graduate or have a GED. Some people, however, may be hired at age 16 if they meet conditions of employment set by local laws and are high school graduates.
- Be a U.S. citizen (However, if not a U.S. citizen, an applicant may be considered if qualified workers are still needed as translators or enumerators with special language skills)
- Have a social security number before being appointed.
- Must submit to the FBI fingerprint screening.
- Pass a written test of basic skills
- Have a valid driver's license (for most field jobs)

Applications can be picked up at the OPM office on Tinian and Rota and completed in advance of the Job Fair. Please bring the completed application to the Job Fair, including a photocopy of a picture ID and high school diploma. If an application was submitted in advance of the Job Fair, Census staff will have a list of all applications submitted and will allow applicants to complete testing during the Job Fair on Rota and Tinian. Copies of an applicant's ID and high school diploma can also be added at the Job Fair.

All information about job opportunities is posted on 2010 CNMI Census tab on the CNMI Department of Commerce website at http://www.commerce.gov.mp . Further information is also available by calling the Local Census Office at 288-3027/23.

GUAM GUARD

From Page 1

Guam has the highest membership per capita of all Guard organizations in the United States: over 1,300 Guam Air and Army National Guard members for some 160,000 residents. This means 0.81 percent of Guam's population are active Guard members.

Warrant Officer 1 Bernard L. Aguon, officer strength management with the Guam Army National Guard, said they have been visiting Saipan in the past month to meet with government officials and business groups like the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, along with schools, students and other members of the community.

"The purpose of our visit here, at least to Saipan, is to engage the local leadership, to inform them of the intention of the Guam Army National Guard, and that is to actively pursue recruiting here on the islands of the CNMI," Aguon told *Saipan Tribune.*

But the "ultimate goal," he said, is to establish a unit in the CNMI, consisting of a little over a hundred members.

"That's our intention… [But] we have some immediate shortages within our command that we're trying to fill, particularly in our band and in our infantry units. That's what we're targeting right now as well as officer availability positions but ultimately, we're looking at establishing a company-size element out here," he added.

CONTACT INFO

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Aguon said one of the biggest areas that they are trying to fill now is their band, and they're looking at tapping members of the Saipan Southern High School Manta Band, among others.

Saipan Southern High School Manta Band has been selected as one of only six high school bands across the nation to perform at Carnegie Hall in New York City during the New York International Music Festival on April 17-21, 2010.

"There's a huge talent pool out here," Aguon added.

Aguon said the Guam Army National Guard is a growing organization and understands that the CNMI can benefit from the ability to have a local force. The National Guard mission involves civil response and preserving peace and order.

The CNMI does not have a National Guard but there are soldiers from the CNMI that are in the Armed Forces, he said. Among other things, there is an Army Reserve unit on Saipan.

"We're working hand in hand with them. They have offered us some support in helping us establish our organization. We have different missions," he added.

Staff Sgt. Gonzalo L. Fernandez, recruiting and retention non-commissioned officer with the Guam Army National Guard, has also been visiting Saipan to help with the recruitment efforts. Fernandez has won the Army National Guard Recruiter/Retention Noncommissioned Officer of the Year award.

For more information about the recruitment process, Fernandez can be reached at 671-777-5827 or 671-735-0477 or via e-mail at gonzalo.fernandez@us.army.mil, while Aguon can be reached at 671-777-8476 or 671-735-0493 or via e-mail at b.aguon@us.army.mil.

RAPE

From Page 1

Superior Court yesterday to face rape charges.

Associate Judge Perry B. Inos imposed a $25,000 cash bail each for their temporary release. Preliminary hearing was set for Dec. 15 at 1:30pm.

In his report, Detective Melvin Monkeya stated that during interrogation Arriola admitted that he and King raped the victim.

Monkeya said that, according to the victim, it was King who first raped her.

The detective quoted the victim as saying she could not understand why the defendants raped her when she already had consensual sex with King on Aug. 13 and 28.

According to preliminary investigation, the victim called the Tinian Department of Public Safety on Saturday that she would file a complaint against Arriola and King.

The victim told police that, on the evening of Friday, she and some friends were drinking at her house because it was her sister's birthday.

Arriola and King, who were uninvited, later joined the party. The group then went to a nightclub where they continued drinking.

Between 1am and 1:30am Saturday, the group left the club. At some point, King approached the victim and told her he would drop her off at her house. The victim refused, but King grabbed her and brought her to his car.

King and Arriola brought the victim to the cemetery where they allegedly raped her.

The victim said she was too drunk and that she could not fight them off because Arriola pinned down her hands.

King later dropped off the victim at her house.

JUDGE

From Page 1

In an eight-page decision, Naraja said that Manglona and Hocog both failed to show that the election results were affected by improperly counted ballots, failure to use "local ballots," or any error in the counting of undervotes.

"If the statements of the cause of the contest are insufficient, the court may dismiss the proceedings for lack of evidence or for want of prosecution," Naraja said, citing statute.

Robert Torres, counsel for mayor-elect Melchor Mendiola, said yesterday that his client is pleased to close this matter and that he looks forward to working for the people of Rota and the CNMI.

"While we respect the contestants' rights to bring a challenge, we appreciate the court's serious attention to the issues and the questions presented. We are humbled by the confirmation of the election results and look forward to meeting the challenges that lie ahead," said Torres in a statement.

Manglona sued his lone rival in the election, Teresita Apatang Santos (Independent), who was elected to a House seat.

Manglona also named as defendants the two winners in the Senate seat for Rota: Jovita Maratita Taimanao and Juan Manglona Ayuyu (both Independents).

In a separate lawsuit, Hocog, an Independent candidate for mayor of Rota, sued the winning candidate, Melchor Atalig Mendiola (Independent).

"Having failed to demonstrate actual prejudice…, plaintiffs have failed to state a sufficient cause of action, and accordingly, the court must dismiss this election contest," Naraja said.

The judge, however, urged the Commonwealth Election Commission to follow proper procedures as outlined in the CNMI election law to avoid future election contests.

Naraja determined that Manglona and Hocog are liable for the attorneys' fees and court costs incurred by the defendants in defending theselves.

The two lawsuits were consolidated. The hearing was held on Rota on Dec. 4. Hocog and Manglona were present and represented by attorneys Joseph Horey and Michael Dotts.

Mayor-elect Mendiola came and was represented by Torres. Attorney Steven Pixley appeared with client Ayuyu. Assistant attorney general Meaghan Hassel Shearer appeared for the CEC. Taimanao was also present, but she elected not to participate in the hearing because she was served improperly.

Manglona and Hocog sued on the grounds that the ballots were improperly counted and that the absentee votes cast for mayor of Rota, senator, and representative were not placed on "local ballots."

They also alleged that CEC counted a large number of votes for senator and representative from Rota as undervotes, when the intent of the voter could be discerned.

In his ruling, Naraja said the two failed to show how conducting a preliminary count of the ballots on Rota would have changed the final result of the election, which was determined after the ballots were counted on Saipan.

On the issue of local ballots, Naraja agreed with the defendants that Rota had an electronic or mechanical counting machine, so a separate ballot known as a "local ballot" was unnecessary.

Further, the judge said, Manglona and Hocog also have failed to show any actual prejudice by the waiver of "local ballots," or how compliance with the statute would have changed the election results.

Naraja said the two also offered no evidence that the intent could have been discerned of votes counted as undervotes.

Under the law, the judge said, the CEC is given the authority to determine the acceptability of all votes cast.

"Without any evidence that the CEC committed an error in its determination of undervotes that changed the results of the election, plaintiffs have again failed to show actual prejudice…and have failed to meet their burden to bring an election contest," Naraja added.

USCIS

From Page 1

rity, the lead agency implementing Public Law 110-229 or the federalization law.

The rule will be re-published in the Dec. 10 Federal Register.

"To provide the public and the CNMI with optimum opportunity to comment on the proposed transitional worker classification provisions, USCIS is reopening the comment period for an additional 30 days. USCIS will consider comments received during the entire public comment period in its development of the final rule," USCIS said yesterday.

Some 100 comments, mostly from foreign workers in the CNMI, were received during the initial 30-day comment period.

Easy conversion mechanism

Steve Woodruff, who has been representing hundreds of nonresident workers in the CNMI, said yesterday that reopening the comment period is "the best way to satisfy the Administrative Procedures Act requirements, to give people enough time to comment on the regulations, before coming up with the final rule."

Woodruff, a former Senate legal counsel, said his comment will focus more on technical aspects of the rule.

"DHS had said it prefers very specific comments," he said.

But Woodruff said DHS should have a mechanism that allows for "easy conversion" of existing CNMI nonresident workers to CW-1 status.

"They should be able to obtain that new status just by presenting their CNMI permit," he said, adding that DHS has taken other right steps, including providing parole and advance parole options.

Transitional worker

DHS is establishing a Transitional Worker Visa category, a new nonimmigrant visa classification under the Immigration and Nationality Act using the admission code CW-1 for the principal transitional worker and CW-2 for dependents. "CW" stands for "Commonwealth transitional worker."

A "transitional worker" is defined as an alien worker who is currently ineligible for another classification under Immigration and Nationality Act and who performs services or labor for an employer in the CNMI.

The CNMI-Only Transitional Worker Program will be available to two groups of nonresidents: those who are lawfully present in the CNMI and those who are abroad.

Under the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program, employers may file a petition for a transitional worker with USCIS using Form I-129CW, Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker in the CNMI.

The Form I-29CW is a modified form of the Form I-29, but it is specifically used for the Commonwealth-only Transitional Worker program.

The fee for Form I-129CW would be $320, the same amount charged for the I-129, and an $80 biometrics fee.

In addition, the Consolidated Natural Resources Act mandates a "CNMI education funding fee" of $150 per beneficiary per year, which cannot be waived.

Helpful

Jim Arenovski, president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said although it does not look like DHS is changing anything in the rules at this point, providing additional time to get more input is "helpful."

"However, we will need to check and verify that nothing has been changed. If nothing is changed, I would not see any reason for the Chamber to make additional comments," he said.

Arenovski, who is also president of Delta Management Corp.-Saipan, was among those who submitted comments on the interim final rule.

In his seven-page comment as Chamber president, Arenovski offered an alternative solution to structure the mandated reduction in CNMI-only transitional workers: the creation of a "federally-administered CNMI-only H-2 visa program exempt from the numerical limitations applied in the United States."

He said this solution would be "effective and efficient." He said such a program would be otherwise largely identical to the existing federal H-2 visa program, but would "not" allow exit from the CNMI to Guam or other areas of the United States.

When asked for comment yesterday, Arenovski said he welcomes the reopening of the public comment period.

"It is welcomed because the more input DHS has about how these rules negatively (or the remote positive comment) affect individuals and businesses, the more they should push the regulations toward the intent of the law, which is not to harm the economy of the NMI. We hope more comments will help DHS see the need for a flexible program that meets their security needs and allows us the workforce (including long term access to foreign labor) to grow our economy," he said.

Improved status

Ronnie Doca, board chair of the United Workers Movement-NMI, said the additional comment period will also give DHS more time to consider their request of giving improved status, like "green cards," to long-time nonresident workers in the CNMI.

Doca, who is also the board chair of the Pilipino Contract Workers Association, said they will continue encouraging workers to submit comments to DHS.

"We may go from house to house for written comments," he said.

Workers' groups, along with Florida-based human rights advocate Wendy Doromal, have been circulating a signature drive petitioning President Obama, the U.S. Congress and other federal agencies to grant "green cards" to long-term foreign workers in the CNMI.

Many of the comments submitted to DHS' interim final rule were from foreign workers and their U.S. citizen children.

Preliminary injunction

The interim final rule was initially published on Oct. 27 and intended to become effective on Nov. 27.

However, on Nov. 25, U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia Judge Paul L. Friedman issued a preliminary injunction to prevent DHS from implementing the rule until it considers public comments and issues a final rule.

Friedman is the judge handling the CNMI government's lawsuit against federalization.

As a result of the judge's ruling, DHS has not implemented the transitional worker rule and USCIS has not accepted any petitions for a CNMI transitional worker, or CW-1, Nonimmigrant, Form I-129CW, until further notice.

The injunction did not affect any aspect of the CNRA's application of federal immigration laws other than the transitional worker nonimmigrant category. U.S. Customs and Border Protection took over immigration processing at airports on Nov. 28.

In his ruling, Friedman said DHS had no reasonable basis for publishing the interim rule without giving the CNMI and other stakeholders time to comment, as required under the Administrative Procedures Act.

To help alien workers leave and reenter the CNMI or for employers to hire needed off-island workers, Friedman suggested that DHS promulgate a narrowly focused and temporary emergency regulation that addresses these issues.

DHS's USCIS decided instead to reopen and extend by 30 days the comment period.

Quick link

Janna M. Evans, USCIS regional lead for community outreach, reminded the public yesterday about the DHS website's quick link for the CNMI page, www.uscis.gov/cnmi.

Evans called on stakeholders to circulate the quick link to their coworkers, clients, friends, family and constituencies.

"It is the central repository for everything USCIS is doing to implement the CNRA in CNMI and we will continue to post useful information on this site. I am currently working to have our PowerPoint training materials posted there," she said.

14 percent drop in the CNMI's toxic releases—EPA

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI saw a 14 percent or 879-lbs decrease in the volume of toxic chemicals released into the air, land and water in 2008, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said yesterday.

The 5,570 lbs of toxic releases makes the CNMI the second lowest among 56 states and territories when it comes to toxic releases, second only to American Samoa with only 6 lbs.

Guam ranks fourth lowest in the nation with 266,453 lbs, based on 2008 nationwide toxics release inventory, or TRI, data released by EPA showed.

The four facilities that contributed to the CNMI's toxic releases last year were the Hawaiian Rock Products Saipan, Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc. Saipan Aviation Terminal, Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc. Saipan Terminal, and Shell Marianas.

In a statement, acting EPA administrator for the Pacific Southwest region Laura Yoshii said the agency encourages people to use data from the Toxics Release Inventory in order to gain a better understanding of what is being released into their neighborhoods.

"Industry and communities informed with accurate information can use the inventory as a starting point to find opportunities to reduce the amount of pollutants released into the air we breathe, the water we drink and the land we enjoy," she said.

Based on the EPA TRI data, air releases in CNMI increased by 18 percent or 855 lbs in 2008.

But this increase was offset by a 93 percent or 478 lbs drop in on-site land releases. Moreover, no facilities in the CNMI reported any releases to the water or through underground injection. Off-site releases also decreased by 100 percent, from 1,256 lbs., as no such releases were reported by CNMI facilities in 2008.

The TRI is one of EPA's largest publicly available databases, arming communities with valuable information on more than 650 toxic chemicals released by various industries.

Chemical information in the inventory is calculated by industrial facilities and reported to the EPA, as required by law.

Total releases include toxic chemicals discharged by facilities to air, water, land, and underground, and the amount transferred off-site for disposal. Regulatory controls apply to many of the reported releases. Reporting facilities must comply with environmental standards set by local, state and federal agencies.

Annual Toxics Release Inventory reporting began in 1987 after the enactment of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (1996). The inventory provides information to the public on annual toxic chemical releases reported by certain industrial and federal facilities.

CUC planning to reclaim 466K gallons of used oil

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. said there is a total of 466,000 gallons of used oil currently stocked at the island's power plant and this continue to pose a serious threat to the operation of the plant.

In a grant application submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy, CUC said it stands to save $840,000 in fuel costs if this problem is addressed.

"CUC has in storage some 466,000 gallons of used oil at its main power plant, known as Power Plant 1. To date, CUC has been burning used oil in two incinerators located at Power Plant 1, with all that energy going out the stacks," the CUC application stated.

Used oil, being heavier than diesel fuel, contains more heat value than diesel fuel.

CUC plans to blend used oil with diesel fuel at a ratio of 10 percent oil and 90 percent diesel as a fuel for power generation. This will allow CUC to not only dispose of its used oil stocks but also potentially use 466,000 gallons of used oil as fuel.

The U.S. Department of Energy recently approved a $4.4 million grant for CUC, with $300,000 to be used to reclaim the used oil for generator fuel to cut down on the consumption of diesel fuel.

By using the funds, CUC will remove dirt and metals from the used oil via a centrifuge machine. Clean and purified used oil would then be passed through a 10-micron filter for blending with diesel fuel in dedicated tanks. The blended fuel would then be transferred to the engine service tanks, then to the engines.

The projected fuel cost savings from recycling 466,000 gallons of used oil is $840,000 based on a $1.68 per gallon cost.

Additional savings will also be generated by the continued processing of used oil from CUC facilities on an ongoing basis.

CUC wants to procure an additional oil centrifuge machine to process used oil at Power Pant 1. This will cost $150,000, according to estimates.

Since 1986, the agency has been using lubricating oil centrifuges at its Lower Base power plant. The centrifuge machines are used primarily for purifying engine-lubricating oil and are kept running 24/7 even when the engines are offline. This is why it is necessary to clean the oil as much as possible.

In March 2009, CUC began operating a new type of centrifuge machines that were installed on engines number 2, 3, and 7. The drive motors on these new centrifuge machines were rated at 11.0 kW versus the 18.5kW in the original separators.

CUC projects that the four upgraded centrifuges will result in energy savings of $141,120 yearly.

'Runoff law's loopholes need to be looked into'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Election Commission board chair Frances M. Sablan said the existing runoff law has some loopholes that cannot be ignored and must be revisited to make it more effective.

Sablan

This year's runoff election, won by incumbent Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, was the first in the Commonwealth.

Sablan said the Election Commission took down "notes" during the conduct of the runoff election and these will be formally recommended for adoption.

She said the commission will ask the Legislature to amend the law early next year.

"There's a need to revisit the law…and we will do it in February so we can recommend to the Legislature changes where we see fit," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* after the certification of the runoff results on Monday.

One of the changes they may recommend is extending the time to send absentee ballots. The existing law provides only a few days to do it.

Sablan said they will also seek input from voters and candidates, based on what were observed during the Nov. 23 runoff.

"Some voters and candidates have expressed their concerns during the runoff…and hopefully we can address them in the changes we will recommend," she said.

Sablan earlier said the commissioned performed its job well, pursuant to what was expected of them as mandated by law. She said the commission is ready for any challenge that may come their way after the certification of results.

Election ballots are kept in storage for now in preparation for any recount request by any party.

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Man'amko learn ropes of using computers, surfing Web

By JOVAN I. FRED
jovan_fred@saipantribune.com
REPORTER TRAINEE

The Aging Center is not just a place where the island's elderly could go to and hang out with friends. For many years now, it has also become a place where they learn new things, and nowhere is this truer than in the computer classes the Center provides its *man'amko* clients.

Acting Aging Center director Rose Mondala said the computer classes are primarily aimed at teaching the *man'amko* how to access information via the Internet.

"One of our goals is for the *man'amko* to be able to access online and learn [about] health [issues]," said Mondala. "We have several clients that are diabetic and with the computer learning, they are able do research and learn more about the disease."

Although the center's computer class only has four computers, there seems to be no lack of interest among the elderly. As of last count, the computer class had 80 clients, according to the Center's event coordinator, Walter Manglona.

The classes are handled by certified instructor Sinchy Kapwich, who is with the Senior Service Community Program.

Basic computer classes take about six weeks. After that, it takes a student nine months to complete the class and receive their certificate on graduation day.

"After the nine months, they [*man'amko*] should excel in typing and e-mailing," said Kapwich.

Kapwich makes sure that the class schedules are flexible so that more *man'amko* can join the classes.

In 2008, students of the computer class finished the course by writing their autobiographies as proof of their newly learned skills. This year, they will write about the things that they've learned online.

JOVAN I. FRED
Certified instructor Sinchy Kapwich handles the computer classes at the Aging Center.

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library first donated four computers to the Aging Center and later replaced them with newer models. At the same time, the public library used to provide computer classes for the *man'amko* but has since stopped doing so. The Aging Center took over the running of the program.

Kapwich was one of the first *man'amko* to be certified when the classes were instructed by one of the Joeten-Kiyu library staff. He has been the Aging Center's computer instructor from 2006 up to the present.

"As I engaged myself with these people, I realized that I still have a part of my life that I thought I have completed after my retirement from the Chuuk government," Kapwich said. "I am very grateful."

The class not only teaches the *man'amko* about computers and the Internet but also helps them feel comfortable about themselves, gives them a higher level of confidence in themselves and makes it easier for them to communicate their feelings through their written work. At the same time, with the new skills they have, their mind also becomes more active.

Kapwich said that having the minds of the *man'amko* updated on new technologies and for them to learn about what is going on today is something that he looks forward to as an outcome of the computer classes.

Manglona said they need to expand their classes as more *man'amko* want to learn but they are prevented from doing this as they have only four computers. Because of the lack of funding, Manglona hopes that people in the community can donate more funds that will allow the Center to buy more computers.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Sobriety checkpoint on Sunday

The Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section will be conducting DUI/Sobriety Check Points on Sunday, Dec. 13, 2009.

The first setup will be Beach Road Chalan Laulau by the B/R Auto Shop Intersection, from 9:30pm to 10:45pm. The second setup will be on Middle Road 2W Chalan Laulau by Trans-America, from 11:45pm to 1am. Each checkpoint will last 75 minutes (1 hour and 15 minutes) at each location.

This activity is part of the Department of Public Safety's efforts to deter and detect impaired drivers and ensure that all vehicle occupants and motorist are protected. Traffic officers will also conduct highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrol, aggressive driver interdiction and laser activities. ***(DPS)***

Designated driver program begins

This holiday season, the Department of Public Safety 3D Prevention Campaign will conduct its designated driver program every weekend on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays beginning this Friday, Dec. 11. The DD Program will also be available throughout holidays until Jan. 10, 2010.

For more information, contact the Department of Public Safety Traffic Section at 664-9084/85 or call 664-9023/22. ***(DPS)***

Man assaults brother in church

A man allegedly assaulted and threatened to kill his brother with a knife at the Bangladeshi Church in Garapan Sunday night.

Alam Gir Mollah, 34, was arrested at the church for assault with a dangerous weapon, and assault and battery. A $6,000 cash bail was imposed for his temporary liberty.

The victim told police that his brother was treated for mental health problems at the Commonwealth Health Center in 2004.

In his report, Detective Steven A. Castro stated that a call was made to 911 Sunday night about a disturbance at the Bangladeshi Church.

The victim told a responding police officer that Mollah slapped him in the face and pointed a knife at him.

The victim directed the officer to another part of the church where Mollah was found. Police arrested him.

Castro said last Dec. 2, a call was also made to 911 about Mollah causing a disturbance in Chalan Kanoa.

Castro said when a police officer arrived at the scene, he saw a woman screaming by the window of her house.

Investigation showed that Mollah started banging on the house's wall and messing up the kitchen and the rooms.

Mollah allegedly threatened to assault someone then hurt himself with a knife. He was not arrested at that time. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

US House unanimously OKs Echo Company resolution

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. House of Representatives unanimously passed yesterday House Concurrent Resolution 199, thanking the men and women of Company E, 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry Regiment for their service, their dedication, and their sacrifice. The vote was 400-0.

"Today the House affirmed its commitment to the soldiers and families of Echo Company," said U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP), who authored the resolution.

"This is an honor that Echo Company well deserves. I am very happy to have been able to bring national attention to their service, dedication, and sacrifice."

H.Con.Res. 199 was debated on the House floor on Monday, Dec. 7. Sablan's floor statement on the resolution can be read on the his Web site, sablan.house.gov, or viewed at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k81u3bloYvU.

The Echo Company commendation is the second piece of legislation, authored by the Northern Mariana Islands congressman, to pass the House. Both passed unanimously.

Sablan also had his bill, H.R. 935, increasing slots at U.S. service academies, bundled into a larger Armed Services bill that was signed into law by the President in October.

The Echo Company resolution now heads to the Senate for consideration. ***(PR)***

ON THE NET
- Web: sablan.house.gov
- Video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k81u3bloYvU

Red Cross launches 'Gifts that Save the Day' online catalog

This holiday season, when economic conditions are tough and people really want their gifts to matter, the NMI Chapter of the American Red Cross is kicking off a new holiday campaign that offers a way to give a gift that has real impact.

Gifts that Save the Day is a new holiday giving campaign that inspires people to make a gift that can save the day for those in need. Through the online catalog at www.redcross.org/gifts, people can make a donation that could provide food and shelter for a disaster victim for a day; a military comfort kit with a robe, phone card and other supplies for a wounded warrior; or a month of basic necessities for a family in another country who lost everything in a disaster.

ON THE NET
- www.nmi.redcross.org

CONTACT INFO
- NMI Chapter: 234-3459

"We know that these are difficult times for many families and businesses here in the CNMI, but the Red Cross has seen that when our community is in need, our people always respond," said John Hirsh, executive director. "The holiday season is traditionally a time of hope and generosity, and this campaign gives us all a chance to make a difference in someone's life."

Gifts made through the catalog are contributions toward a Red Cross program area, not a donation to a specific project or item. The donations will be used to provide assistance where it is needed most within the program area; remaining money is put to use where it is needed most.

"These have been turbulent economic times for the Red Cross and other non-profits, with more and more people seeking help," said Tayna Camacho, Financial Development Co-Chair. "The Red Cross is working very hard to raise money now so the organization can be there tomorrow with help and hope when people need it most—when the next disaster strikes, when a neighbor's house burns down or when someone needs life-saving blood."

For more information, visit www.nmi.redcross.org or call the NMI Chapter at 234-3459.

Babauta inducted into Hall of Fame

Vicente "Ben" Babauta was inducted into the Off the Beaten Path's Hall of Fame on Saturday at the organization's bi-annual event, ThanksMas.

OBP's first inductee two years ago was Ted Parker, whose passion for helping others and for advancing important social causes earned him the award.

"For most of his life, our Babauta has been involved in many community and charitable events that have made positive impacts on the lives on hundreds, if not thousands of residents," said Frankie Eliptico, president of Off the Beaten Path, at during the awarding ceremony.

Babauta is the past president of the Rotary Club of Saipan, past president of the Saipan Swim Club, served on the Board of the American Red Cross, has been an assistant scout master for the Boy Scouts of America, and has had a key role in countless other organizations.

He is the current president of the Northern Marians College Foundation, where he has helped to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for scholarships, building improvements, and the purchase of state of the art equipment for NMC students.

He has been instrumental in the creation of Saipan Skate Park, regularly participates in island cleanups, and is an active supporter of local sporting events such as Tagaman and Xterra.

OBP's Hall of Fame is a way of recognizing residents who have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to the social and cultural enrichment of the CNMI. Those who are nominated must embody the following: Interest in community service, dedication to the advancement of humanity, respect for cultural preservation, volunteerism, strong character and charisma, leadership, and altruism.

ThanksMas was held on Saturday, Dec 5, 2009 at the Hyatt Regency Saipan to raise funds for the Autism Society of the CNMI. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the "Open Government Act." The Public School System State Board of Education, through the Special Education State Advisory Panel (SESAP), and the Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC), is hereby serving notice to the general public that it will hold its meeting on Wednesday, December 16, 2009. The ICC meeting is from 10:00am to 1:00pm, and the SESAP meeting is from 5:30pm to 8:30pm, at Pacific Islands Club, Napu room. This meeting is open to the public. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

ICC AGENDA

I. Call to Order
   a. Welcome & Introduction
   b. Attendance & Quorum

II. Review for State and Annual Performance Reports - Review for Comment

III. Adjournment

SESAP AGENDA

I. Call to Order
   a. Welcome & Introduction
   b. Adoption of Agenda
   c. Adoption of Minutes - 10/13/09

II. Review for State and Annual Performance Reports - Review for Comment

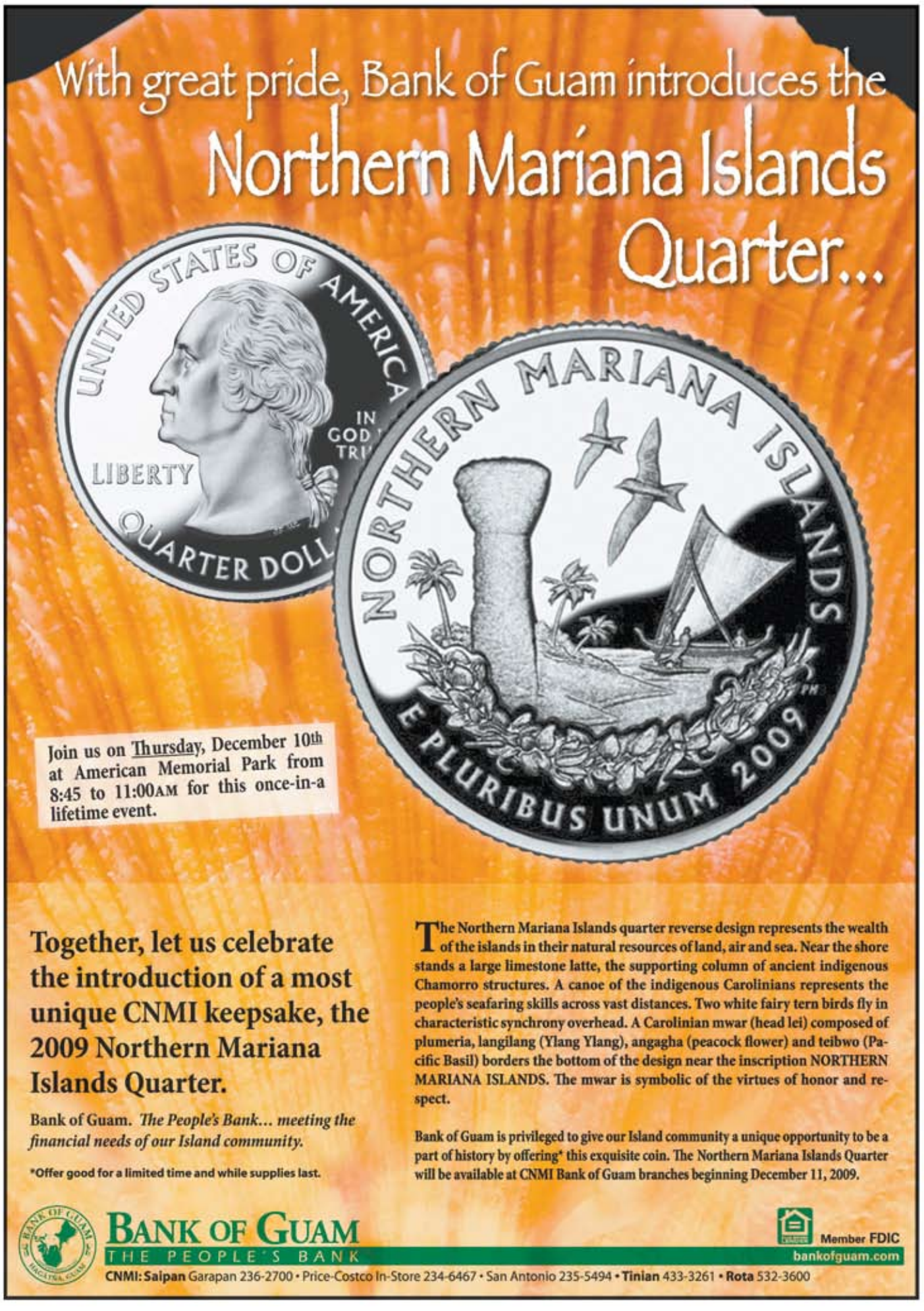
III. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting, but require accessibility such as large print, sign language or interpreter, must call 237-3029. Several days notice is necessary to allow organizers ample time to make necessary arrangement.

/s/ **Margaret Aldan**
ICC, Chairperson

/s/ **Frances Diaz**
SESAP, Chairperson

/s/ **Suzanne W. Lizama**
Acting Coordinator
Special Education Program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Join us on Thursday, December 10th at American Memorial Park from 8:45 to 11:00AM for this once-in-a lifetime event.
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The Northern Mariana Islands quarter reverse design represents the wealth of the islands in their natural resources of land, air and sea. Near the shore stands a large limestone latte, the supporting column of ancient indigenous Chamorro structures. A canoe of the indigenous Carolinians represents the people's seafaring skills across vast distances. Two white fairy tern birds fly in characteristic synchrony overhead. A Carolinian mwar (head lei) composed of plumeria, langilang (Ylang Ylang), angagha (peacock flower) and teibwo (Pacific Basil) borders the bottom of the design near the inscription NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. The mwar is symbolic of the virtues of honor and respect.
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Child care program opens for new applicants

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs will be doing a pre-eligibility assessment for new applicants for the Child Care and Development Fund (Child Care Program) for the island of Saipan.

The pre-eligibility assessments will be done beginning Monday, Dec. 21, 2009, to Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2009.

Pre-eligibility assessments will be done at the Child Care Program Office on Capital Hill Building No. 1347 between the hours of 9am and 3pm. The first 100 applicants who qualify during the pre-eligibility assessment will be given an application to complete. When the 100 applications are out, the program will immediately close its issuance of applications.

Parents and/or guardians who are interested in applying for the program must go through the pre-eligibility assessment and will need to bring the following:

■ Three latest check stubs showing the applicant's name, hours worked (at least 60 hours bi-weekly), hourly rate, and gross earnings (both parents)

■ Most recent 1040 tax (both parents)

■ School documents (class schedule, must be full time 12 credits)

■ Training schedule (must have at least 60 training hours bi-weekly)

Completed applications along with the required documents should be forwarded to the Child Care Program Office, Capital Hill no later than Monday, Jan. 11, 2010, at 4pm. Incomplete applications as well as applications turned in after this time and date will not be accepted.

Completed applications should be forwarded to:

DCCA Child Care Program Office
Caller Box 10007
Building no. 1347 Ascension Ct.
Capital Hill, Saipan
Tel. No. 664-2575/76
Fax No. 664-2547

For this program opening, approved applications will be funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and is valid only until Sept. 30, 2010. ***(PR)***

REQUIREMENTS

Applicant of Household

1. Check stubs for the most recent three (3) pay periods for each parent or guardian; must show at least 60 work hours bi-weekly
2. A copy of Identification Card for each parent or guardian (Passport, CNMI driver's license, Mayor's ID Card or entry permit)
3. A copy of your most recent 1040 Tax (each parent or guardian)
4. Residency: The applicant or guardian must be living in the CNMI
   Provide one of the following documents
   a. House Rental/ Mortgage
   b. Utility Receipt
   c. Telephone Receipt
   d. Entry Permit
5. Employment verification for each parent or guardian
6. Child support statement/stub (if applicable)
7. Training/Education Verification and class schedules
   If in training, must show at least 60 training hours bi-weekly
   If in education, must be enrolled in at least 12 credit units
8. If single parent/guardian in a household provide notarized affidavit

Child/Children Household member:

1. A copy of Birth Certificate for each child (Child must be a US citizen or a qualified alien, as defined in Personal Responsibility Work Opportunity Act (PRWORA)
2. A copy of US Passport
3. A copy of Social Security Card

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Dec. 10, 1998

Gov't scrambles for cash

The amount covers three pay periods for the month of December, and the governor expressed optimism that funds would be available to avert a payless payday during the holiday season. "We're looking into other sources to raise revenues," Tenorio said, without giving details how his administration plans to raise funds, as he admitted that the commonwealth is in a tight situation in coming up with the money to pay government workers. "It's difficult for us because we have to spend $18 million in one month and I hope it (payless pay day) would never happen," he added.

Saddled with debts, investors flee

With the closure of almost 1,000 businesses on the island amid Asia's financial crisis, foreign investors fled the island leaving behind millions of dollars in unpaid land leases. In 1997, when the economic problems in the region began, landowners filed some 39 cases against foreign businessmen, mostly Koreans, for non-payment of leases. Twenty-four similar cases have been filed for this year. Unfortunately, most landowners were not successful in recovering payments since the foreign investors have filed bankruptcy. "The most that landowners usually get is the recovery of the title of their land. That in itself could be considered a success because they can find other investors to lease the land again," said lawyer Robert O' Connor, who has handled a number of land disputes.

Dec. 10, 1999

NMIRF chief wants retirement bonus axed

NMI Retirement Fund Administrator Juan S. Torres yesterday said he will ask Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio to immediately sign a piece of legislation which seeks to eliminate the 30 percent retirement bonus in order to save the financial integrity of NMIRF. Due to the effects of Asia's financial crisis, the Fund's investment in the region's stock market, which is the secondary source of its annuity payments, has been greatly affected. Aside from this, Mr. Torres said the government can no longer afford to continue granting the benefit because of declining revenues. "It may be a bitter pill to swallow but we have no choice but to do this with the current economic difficulties. The government has been generous for a long time, now it is time to cut cost," he said.

CUC welcomes probe on power project

Saying he welcomes any investigation into the controversial Saipan power project, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Executive Director Timothy P. Villagomez yesterday lambasted what he called aggressive lobbying by one of the bidders in a bid to influence the Legislature. The embattled CUC director also dismissed fears that CNMI's credibility with outside investors is at stake if the utility firm decides to scrap the initial plan and scale back the proposed 80-megawatt plant. "We're open to any investigation. We have nothing to hide," he told reporters. "What amazes me is the amount of lobbying being done to try to sell a product and not looking at the ramification associated with it."

Dec. 10, 2001

Revenues fall to new lows

Government revenues dropped nine percent during the third quarter of the financial year 2001 to $60 million from $66.3 million in the same period last year, according to a report obtained from the commerce department. Quarterly revenues for the current fiscal year dropped to $54.8 million, lower than the previous year's $57.5 million, or the 1999 level of $60.25 million. In 1998, the government's quarterly revenue averaged at $60.575 million; $62 million in 1997 and $56.675 in 1996.

Parents troop to Virtues seminar

The Virtues Project seminar held over the weekend attracted a wide range of audiences, all interested to hear parenting insights from no less than internationally-renowned experts on the field, visiting Psychotherapist Linda Kavelin-Popov and Dr. Dan Popov. For majority of parents who attended the two-day fora, the couple's time-tested ideas on parenting hit a familiar nerve. Each participant had the opportunity to relate his/her individual parenting experience to the speakers' presentation on the five strategies of moral and spiritual development within families. The five strategies include 1) Recognizing Teachable Moments, 2) Speaking the Language of Virtues, 3) Setting Clear Boundaries, 4) Supporting the Sacred and 5) Offering Spiritual Companioning.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

Breakthrough in Iraq

President Obama's new strategy for Afghanistan resembles in many respects the surge launched by the Bush administration in Iraq nearly three years ago—though the president, who opposed the surge, hasn't advertised that fact. So the news that Iraq's legislators had finally agreed Sunday on a law permitting national elections to go forward early next year gave cause for optimism on more than one front.

The elections are crucial to Iraq's transition to a stable government that can ensure security around the country without the help of most of the 120,000 American soldiers still deployed there. After making an early November deadline to pass the law, Iraq's political leaders faced a crisis when the bill was vetoed by a Sunni vice president; for a time it appeared the country's sectarian divisions could undermine the election and drag the country back toward civil war. But at minutes to midnight Sunday, just before another deadline, legislators voted to approve another deal that appears to ensure that the election can go forward in late February—late, but still in time to preserve the U.S. withdrawal timetable.

The larger significance of the accord is that Iraqis are finding ways to work out their divisions through the political system; the White House was right to call Sunday "a decisive moment for Iraqi democracy." Three years ago the ruling coalition of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki was seen as hopelessly ineffectual, corrupt and sectarian. Yet Mr. Maliki's Shiite party has steadily strengthened as violence has fallen, prompting it to agree to reforms that will increase Kurdish and Sunni representation in the national legislature and discourage voting along sectarian lines.

Remarkably, many of the "political benchmarks" laid out by President George W. Bush for Iraq in January 2007 still have not been met. There has been no national oil law, no reform of the constitution, no settlement of the dispute over the ethnically mixed city of Kirkuk. Violence in Iraq has nevertheless dropped precipitously and continues to do so. Last month, fewer than 90 Iraqi civilians died, compared with about 3,500 in November 2006. One lesson of this record could be that counterinsurgency operations have the potential to drastically reduce violence even in the absence of decisive improvements in national government. Another is that positive political change may not follow the course laid out for it by planners in Washington. Iraqis are muddling toward accommodation in their own way and at their own pace.

They don't always do it on their own, however. The White House said that both Mr. Obama and Vice President Joe Biden made calls Sunday to Iraqi Kurdish leader Massoud Barzani. Reports from Iraq said they pressed him to accept the compromise; a White House statement said they also confirmed "the U.S. commitment to a long-term relationship with Iraq." If a successful finish to the Iraq mission is to be secured, that sort of intervention, and that commitment, will be needed for some time to come. The same, of course, applies to Afghanistan.

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UNEMPLOYMENT
OFFICE
Attention, please... the president's job creation program just opened up 30,000 new positions in Afghanistan...
MARGULIES
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Bringing leadership concepts into the classroom

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS

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There is a plethora of management trainers, educators, and gurus who have codified the many skills and practices that corporate leaders need to develop and implement into their businesses to become more successful. However, many of these concepts have not found their way into the classroom. Management expert and author Michael LeBoeuf says that every year schools are turning out millions of students who lack the basic skills necessary to thrive in our "information-oriented economy."

What if those business skills and practices were taught to children in a school setting at an early age? Imagine implementing a leadership program that would co-exist with the educational system. Bridging core business leadership principles and skills from the corporate world into the classrooms would better prepare young students for work and help them develop habitual leadership traits. Three business concepts that have found their way into schools are mission statements, values, and communication skills.

Most large businesses have a mission statement that guides them toward their vision. They understand that a mission communicates the purpose and direction of the organization to their employees and customers. Many schools now have a mission statement, and even some teachers have developed mission statements that provide a statement of purpose for their students to focus their learning.

Taking it one step further, schools should encourage teachers to help their students develop their own personal mission statement—one that may change throughout their academic learning as they begin to understand their life direction. A personal mission provides a realization of a purpose in life, an innate instinct or passion for something, and it will inspire and provide students with guidance and direction in their schoolwork and life. What would happen if teachers assisted their students to develop a personal mission statement so they could understand how school fits into the ultimate achievement of their purpose?

A mission statement alone will not ensure success. A key leadership principle that sets Fortune 500 companies apart from others is defining company values. Once a mission statement is in place it needs to be governed by values. Values guide decisions and decisions determine the behavior and consequences of an organization or individual. Management expert Brian Tracy claims: "One of the most important characteristics of leaders, and the most successful people in every area of life, is that they know who they are, what they believe in, and what they stand for."

Although successful businesses and individuals have understood the importance of values to help govern the culture of the organization and make important decisions, it's only in recent years schools have begun to realize the value of teaching values to enhance the environment and the lives of their students. Sarah Glazer reports that thousands of schools are beginning to participate and teach values in schools. At inner-city schools, they are using values to reverse the worst signs of social decay; such as pregnancy and rising violence, and to give children the social survival skills they need to make it in the real world.

Another skill that is essential in the business world, but may receive scant attention in the early years of academia is communication. When effective communication is taught and practiced in an organization there is greater trust and mistakes are minimized. Management trainer, Andrew Schwartz, defines communication as "an exchange of information; it is a process of understanding on both the part of the receiver and the sender and is essential in any relationship or advantageous learning experience."

Harry Wong emphasizes procedures to develop good communication for classroom management. In his book *The First Days of School*, he states that the first week of school should be spent establishing procedures in the class. Procedures clearly communicate how things are done. A procedure should be explained, rehearsed and reinforced. If the procedure is done incorrectly, the procedure is rehearsed to allow the student to communicate anything he might not understand. Having procedures not only lowers discipline problems and mistakes, but it also allows the teacher to communicate effectively to each student and spend more time teaching.

These are just a few of the skills and practices that have found their way into the classroom as educators have realized the importance of preparing young learners to thrive in our information-oriented society. However, there are many other leadership and management concepts that could be adapted into the classroom to transform today's students into tomorrow's leaders.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

'What did he just say?'

A primer for communicating with non-native speakers

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

Last Friday, I attended the first of the immigration forums here on Saipan. These forums have been organized to inform people of the changes in immigration policy as a result of the Nov. 28, 2009 federalization of CNMI immigration law. The presenter was Marie Thérèse Sebrechts, USCIS (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services) regional media manager. As I mentioned to Marie afterwards, her talk was one of the best I'd heard on Saipan. She was clear, effective, and easy to understand. Her visual aids were easy to follow and she used simple language. And considering the complexity of the subject matter, it was perhaps a testament to her sensitivity to some of the issues I'm about to discuss. So, as we say in Jamaica, "nuff respect*" to Marie for inspiring today's column.

What that forum and others like it brought to mind is the importance of effective communication to audiences who are *not* native speakers of a given language—in this case, English. Now, in all fairness, many of our new guests on Saipan may not have had training or practice dealing with the many cultural and language groups here on Saipan. However, since federalization is likely to bring more newcomers to these shores with presentations of their own, I'd like to offer a few tips. First, however, let's understand the basis for those tips.

THE TRAGEDY OF THE UNKNOWN WORD

The concept of learning and comprehension has been studied for centuries, but there's a little fact that many people don't know, and it is this: *the only reason someone gets frustrated with, gives up on, abandons or misunderstands some new information, a course or lecture, for instance, is because they encountered, then went past a word or phrase they did not understand.* In other words, they kept reading, or kept listening even after encountering an unknown word.

Think about it. Have you ever been reading a book and then gotten to the end of the page and realized you didn't understand anything you just read? That's because, somewhere earlier on that page you encountered a word you didn't understand or didn't have the correct definition for, but you kept reading. The void created by that unknown word affected all comprehension after it.

Or imagine you're speaking with someone in a new language, and they say a word you've never heard before. You get distracted by that unknown word, and the meaning of the entire conversation is lost as your mind grapples with that one word you missed at the beginning.

The solution to the dilemma of the unknown word is to stop, find a dictionary, get the right meaning, and then continue. However, that's often not practical or possible in a public forum, and why it is therefore vitally important for the speaker to take the initiative to be effective in his/her communication.

Let's say you're giving a public talk on immigration policy. You start your speech, but you're not careful about the language you use, how articulate you are being, or not following the tips I'll soon share. What happens? You will start to lose your audience, and losing your audience in such an important public forum has profound effects. People get bored when they don't grasp what's being said, they get fidgety, they tune out, they start talking amongst themselves (out of boredom, and also to clarify for themselves what you just said), the energy in the room changes, confusion reigns, you lose control of the flow of the session, frustrated people leave with misheard information, rumors spread, community agitation increases, riots start and wars erupt! OK, maybe those last two are a bit of an exaggeration of the tragedy, but I hope you see the far-reaching effects poor communication can have when important matters are being discussed.

The point is, there's always the need to speak with people for whom English is not their native language. Being aware of the concept of the unknown word avoids confusion, improves your effectiveness, maximizes listener comprehension, and, if you're doing business in a culturally-diverse setting like Saipan, it can mean the difference between losing money and making a profit. So, with that said, I'd like to offer some of Walt's Tips For Effective Communication with Non-Native Speakers.

REMEMBER YOUR GOAL

First of all, remember that your goal is communication and comprehension. You want to impart information, but more importantly, you want your audience to understand the information so they can apply it to their lives, and take whatever actions are necessary. Your goal is *not* to show how intelligent or clever you are, and it is *not* to win a vocabulary contest.

KEEP IT SIMPLE

The best way to achieve your goal is to keep things simple. No one will ever fault you for doing this. Even English major PhDs will appreciate simplicity in learning a new concept. By choosing simple words, you're not being condescending, you're being courteous and considerate.

As an example, since I referred to last week's immigration forum, I would use words like "go to and from" or "traveling to or through" rather than, say, "transiting," or "embarkation." That's immigration-speak, not everyday language taught in English 101. Keep it simple. You lose nothing, and you gain understanding.

NO TANGENTS AND PARENTHESES

Another way to keep things simple is to avoid tangents, parentheses, caveats and multiple conditionals in a single answer/sentence. Find ways to answer yes or no. I agree that immigration law is detailed. However, many questions can be answered with *"Yes, if..."* and *"No, unless...."* rather than a long and winding response with a series of if/then conditions.

BAD: *"So, to answer your question, which, incidentally, only applies if you were an immigrant prior to 1985, when it was actually on the books as illegal, but then repealed by a Senator who was a dear friend of mine, you can, in fact—and this is mandated by law—do it, IF, and only if, you meet the necessary criteria, which was put in place during the Clinton Administration and passed in Congress by just two votes."*

All those parenthetical statements and caveats and tangents, and prior tos, and whereases show you're knowledgeable, they prove you know the regulations, and that you know how to string an educated sentence together, *but* they totally lose and intimidate your audience. So you end up getting answers to issues you *thought* you explained correctly, but the reality is, it simply wasn't simple.

GOOD: *"Yes, if you have children who were born in the U.S."* or *"Here are the seven situations this law applies to."*

NO ACRONYMS!

This is one of my major peeves with public speakers. Whether they're just lazy, inconsiderate or worse, showing off their newfound membership in a professional clique, many speakers use confusing and obscure acronyms that they themselves didn't know or use before they took their job or role.

***BAD**:" "The DOD, along with my friends at DHS, prepared an RFP which..."*

We're dealing a lot with government officials from the military, homeland security, and immigration where the use of acronyms is a way of life and a foreign language unto itself. Think how confusing it is to a non-native speaker who has a hard enough time following REAL English words! Remember, all it takes is one unknown word to lose your audience.

DRAW PICTURES; TELL STORIES

The best way to get a message across is to tell a story. Describe a scene to make your point.

GOOD: *"I had a friend who wanted to go to Japan. He got up that morning, grabbed his passport and went to the airport."*

DON'T USE SLANG

BAD: *He wanted to zip over to Japan, and when he buzzed the airline, they didn't tell him he needed a visa, because they thought he was a U.S. citizen. So he figured it was a done deal, and that everything was in the bag.*

MAKE NO ASSUMPTIONS

Make no assumptions about cause and effect, or the results and consequences of certain actions, or what you consider the logical or obvious conclusion to draw from a situation.

BAD: *He went to the counter, handed over his passport, but there was no visa inside. So we all know what happened to him then!*

(No, we don't. That's why we are here to listen to you: to learn.)

FINISH YOUR SENTENCES

Everyone, especially non-native speakers, comprehends best when you speak in complete sentences and ideas. Don't complete your sentences with shoulder shrugs, rolled eyes, raised eyebrows, or other body language, even though "everyone in the states understands what I mean." Spell it out. ***GOOD**: "So, because he did* not *have his visa, he was* not *allowed on the plane."*

STATE THE CONCLUSION

When dealing with non-native speakers, you will never be wronged for stating what you consider to be obvious. People will thank you for it. Using words like "therefore," "what this means is," and "in other words" is critical for establishing the connection between cause and effect.

GOOD: *"What that means is:* If *you are a Jamaican citizen with a Jamaican passport, whenever you travel to Japan, you need to apply for a visa before you can get on the plane."*

STRESS AND EMPHASIZE SHORT WORDS

When you're new to a language, short words may simply sound like incoherent noises. Just as the equivalent of "um" or "ah" might be mistaken by you for a word, in English, a short, but important word like "if" can simply be missed by someone new to the language. And, especially when explaining policy and procedures, that little word "if" is vital for full comprehension.

NO CONTRACTIONS

If you've ever attempted to learn Mandarin, then you might be familiar with the four tones (the same basic sound said with a rising tone, a falling tone, etc. has different meanings). The subtle differences among the four tones are often lost to us non-native Mandarin speakers who weren't raised hearing the differences. Similarly, you may not realize that the difference between "can" and "can't" seems subtle to non-English speakers and is often lost to those who didn't grow up speaking and hearing English.

Therefore, stay away from contractions. Say "*cannot*" and "*do not*" instead of *can't* and *don't*. Just think how many misconceptions and rumors here on Saipan are caused by that one…especially when it comes to visa and immigration regulations!

BAD: *"You can't (heard as "can") travel to the U.S. with an umbrella permit."*

GOOD: "*You* cannot *travel to the U.S. with an umbrella permit."*

Even in the most ideal circumstances, public speaking and effective communicating can be a challenge. It's hard enough to speak to a crowd of your peers who share your own language. Speaking to non-native speakers requires a few additional skills, increased sensitivity and special care. It requires being able to become your audience, to be able to understand your own language as well as how it is heard, how it is perceived and how it is spoken (or misspoken) by people who are experiencing it for the first time. Taking the time to practice these and other tips will make a world of difference in your future presentations! Best of success to all!

***nuff** in Jamaican patois means "much" or "a lot of." (Just taking care to explain any slang terms I might use.)

■ ■ ■ ■

***Note**: Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of websites that said good things about Saipan? Do what I do: send them to www.bestofsaipan.com!*

Note: Fans and followers of the book, *Chicken Feathers and Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese Garment Factory Girl on Saipan* may now find copies here on Saipan at Fu Dogs & Qi (pronounced chi), Saipan's only Asian Antiques Store, located on the first floor of the Nauru Building (the "360 building") in Susupe.

■ ■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

The Saipanpreneur Project

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 15 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com.

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°

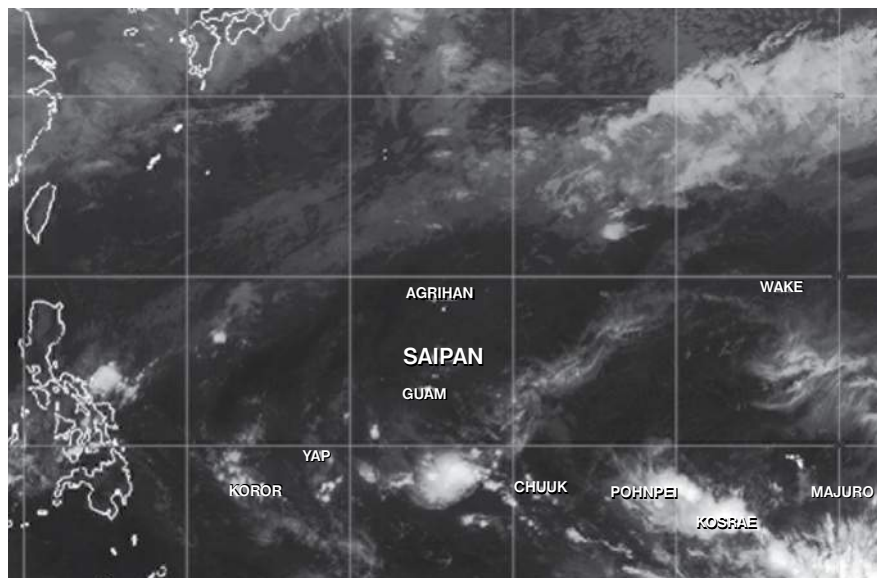
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼75
Palau	Rain	▲86	▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼79
Pohnpei	Rain	▲85	▼78
Kosrae	Rain	▲87	▼78
Majuro	Rain	▲84	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲75	▼67
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲37	▼32
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲75	▼66
Honolulu	Showers	▲78	▼69
London	Partly Sunny	▲50	▼39
Los Angeles	Showers	▲58	▼46
Manila	Showers	▲84	▼75
Melbourne	Showers	▲70	▼50
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲84	▼65
New York	Cloudy	▲40	▼25
Osaka	Showers	▲54	▼49
Paris	Cloudy	▲53	▼37
Pusan	Showers	▲59	▼44
Rome	Sunny	▲58	▼37
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲33	▼19
San Francisco	Rain	▲53	▼44
Seoul	Rain	▲53	▼39
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲47	▼43
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲42	▼24

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weak trade-wind surge is combining with upper-level divergence to trigger scattered showers and a few thunderstorms between the Marianas and Chuuk within 90 miles of a line from 7N147E to14N151E. A shear line extends northeastward from 14N130E to 23N147E to beyond 25N at 159E. Cloudiness and patchy rain showers are located over Minami Tor Shima along and up to 350 miles northwest of the shear line. A monsoontrough extends eastward from 5N130E through a circulationcentered southeast of Majuro at 1N175E to end at EQ177E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are located north and northeast of Kosrae between 6N and 7N from 160E to163E…between the equator and 2N from 164E to 180…and east of Majuro between 2N and 12N from 173E to 180. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers north of Kwajalein and the Marshall islands within 30 miles of a line from 14N167E to 11N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:47 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
7:55 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
2:35 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
9:37 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Thursday	6:32 AM	5:47 PM
Friday	6:33 AM	5:47 PM
Saturday	6:33 AM	5:47 PM
Sunday	6:34 AM	5:48 PM
Monday	6:34 AM	5:48 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Thursday	12:42 AM	12:55 PM
Friday	1:36 AM	1:36 PM
Saturday	2:30 AM	2:18 PM
Sunday	3:24 AM	3: 02 PM
Monday	4:19 AM	3:50 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 7, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:45am	5:35am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW287	6:00am	7:30pm	Daily via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW297	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	1:30am+1	1, 5 via PUS
C09603/933	3:15pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:30am	4:05am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:20am	2:50am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:00am	2:30am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09598	2:20am	4:05am	5, 6 via ROP
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW288	12:05pm	1:20am+1	Daily via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW298	10:05am	2:50pm	Daily
NW288	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ716/605	12:30am	2:20pm	4 via ICN
OZ706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	4, 7 via PUS
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1 via ICN	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1 via GUM	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

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  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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Business

Obama urges major new stimulus, jobs spending

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama called for a major new burst of federal spending Tuesday, perhaps $150 billion or more, aiming to jolt the wobbly economy into a stronger recovery and reduce painfully persistent double-digit unemployment.

Despite Republican criticism concerning record federal deficits, Obama said the U.S. has had to "spend our way out of this recession" with so many people out of work but insisted he was still mindful of a need to confront soaring deficits. More than 7 million Americans have lost their jobs since the recession began two years ago, and the jobless rate stands at 10 percent, statistics Obama called "staggering."

Congressional approval would be required for the new spending.

"We avoided the depression many feared," Obama said in a speech at the Brookings Institution, a Washington think tank. But, he added, "Our work is far from done."

It was the third time in a week the president had presided over a high-profile event on jobs, responding to rising pleas in Congress that he spend more time discussing unemployment as midterm election season draws near.

Obama proposed new spending for highway and bridge construction, for small business tax cuts and for retrofitting millions of homes to make them more energy-efficient. He said he wanted to extend economic stimulus programs to keep unemployment insurance from expiring for millions of out-of-work Americans and to help laid-off workers keep their health insurance. He proposed an additional $250 apiece in stimulus spending for seniors and veterans and aid to state and local governments to discourage them from laying off teachers, police officers and firefighters.

He did not give a price tag for the new package but said he would work with Congress on deciding how to pay for it.

AP

President Barack Obama speaks on the economy at the Brookings Institution in Washington, Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2009.

Bailout watchdog: Crisis response worked, somewhat

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government's $700 billion bailout of the financial system helped prevent an all-out panic last fall but hasn't met many of the targets Congress set out, a watchdog panel says.

"Congress set goals for (the bailouts) that went well beyond short-term financial stability, and by that measure problems remain," said panel chair and Harvard Law school professor Elizabeth Warren.

The programs funded by the bailout—including bank capital injections, foreclosure relief and automaker rescues—were uneven in their success, the panel says. But it also noted that there is broad consensus that the programs helped avert a possible economic calamity.

The findings are part of a sweeping review of a year's work by the panel Congress created to oversee the Troubled Asset Relief Program, or TARP. It discusses the relative strengths of the diverse programs funded by TARP and evaluates them against standards Congress set.

The Treasury Department said in a statement that "by every measure, TARP has succeeded in achieving its primary goal of economic stabilization."

"Confidence in our financial system has improved, access to credit is increasing, and the economy is growing. The government is exiting from its emergency financial policies and taxpayers are being repaid," Treasury said. "Indeed, the ultimate cost of those policies is likely to be significantly lower than previously expected."

But the panel's report points to ongoing problems in the financial system as evidence that the bailouts did not address every concern Congress laid out. Among the problems: Limited credit, ongoing bank failures, continued weakness at some large banks, escalating job losses and foreclosures and the banking system's continued reliance on government support.

GAO: FDA yet to make safety changes post-Vioxx

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Food and Drug Administration still hasn't restructured its staff to better monitor drug safety, more than three years after experts recommended key changes in the wake of the Vioxx scandal.

That's according to congressional investigators who found that the FDA has yet to follow through on changes suggested in 2006 to help the agency detect problems with drugs taken by millions of Americans. Those recommendations came after the embarrassing and dangerous episode with Vioxx, a blockbuster pain drug the FDA approved in 1999, only to pull from the market in 2004 after linking it to heart attack and stroke.

Agency officials have made some changes to drug oversight, according to a Government Accountability Office report, but the FDA continues to give the bulk of its decision-making power to scientists who approve new drugs, rather than those who monitor the side effects of drugs on the market.

"It is not yet clear if or when FDA's decision-making process will be substantially improved as a result of its efforts," according to the GAO report, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press.

Within the FDA bureaucracy, scientists tasked with reviewing new drug applications have traditionally had the most say over questions of safety, even after drugs are approved. But outside experts say leaving such key decisions to the scientists who first cleared the drugs could lead to inadequate safety actions, putting prescription drug users at risk.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil rises above $73 after US crude supply drop

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices rose above $73 a barrel Wednesday in Asia as an unexpected drop in U.S. crude supplies suggested demand may be recovering. Benchmark crude for January delivery was up 57 cents to $73.19 at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract dropped $1.31 to settle at $72.62 on Tuesday. U.S. crude inventories unexpectedly fell last week, the American Petroleum Institute said late Tuesday. Crude stocks fell 5.8 million barrels while analysts had expected an increase of 600,000 barrels, according to a survey by Platts, the energy information arm of McGraw-Hill Cos.

CIT Group to exit bankruptcy protection Thursday

NEW YORK (AP)—CIT Group Inc., one of the nation's biggest lenders to small and mid-sized businesses, said Tuesday that a judge approved its reorganization plan and it plans to emerge from bankruptcy protection on Thursday. CIT Group filed for bankruptcy protection on Nov. 1 after it failed to restructure outstanding debt to alleviate a cash crunch. The reorganization plan, which was approved by key bondholders in advance, reduces CIT's total debt by $10.5 billion. It also defers debt maturities for three years. CIT, based in New York, had continued to operate while working through bankruptcy proceedings.

GE Capital outlook improving, losses to continue

WASHINGTON (AP)—General Electric Co. says profits at its lending arm will start improving by 2011, but first it will have to slog through another year of big losses on loans gone bad in areas like commercial real estate. The conglomerate told analysts Tuesday that profit is expected to be flat next year, ranging between $2 billion to $2.5 billion, and then rise in 2011. GE is ahead of schedule with plans to shrink the size of GE Capital, which once provided nearly half of the company's overall profits. And GE says credit markets are improving, making it easier and cheaper to borrow money. But some big problems that have beset GE Capital during the financial crisis and recession, like big losses, are expected to continue to dog the lender next year. Chief among them is commercial real estate, where losses have soared as the broader market crumbles. GE Capital owns properties such as office buildings and makes loans for other commercial projects.

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Nation

Fierce winter storm hits Midwest with snow, wind

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—A fierce winter storm hammered more than a dozen states Tuesday with dangerous ice, heavy snow and vicious winds that threatened to create 15-foot drifts in parts of the Upper Midwest.

As much as two-thirds of the country will be affected by the storm by the time it moves off the Maine coast Thursday night, said Jim Lee, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Des Moines.

"It's a monster of a storm," Lee said.

After drenching California with rain and blanketing the mountain West, the storm was expected to bring significant snowfall and blizzard conditions from Utah to the Great Lakes. Wind advisories and warnings were in effect from New Mexico to the Mid-Atlantic states with flooding in the south. Winter storm warnings were likely to be issued in New England by Wednesday.

A foot or more of snow was expected in parts of Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin, meteorologists said. Wind gusts of up to 50 mph could create snow drifts of 8 to 15 feet.

"It's beautiful—it feels like we moved into the next season," said Ann Marks, a mother of four in Whitefish Bay, Wis., who was buying gloves, hats and scarves. She paused, then added with a smile, "Of course, ask me in a month and it might be a new story."

In rural New York near the Great Lakes where more than 3 feet of snow was expected by the week's end, meteorologists urged residents to deflate blow-up Santas so gusty winds didn't sweep them away.

AP

City employee Logan Kappel blows snow in Flagstaff, Ariz. Tuesday , December 8 2009, clearing out the effects of the big storm that hit Northern Arizona on Monday and Tuesday. Power outages, freeway closures, and closed schools accompanied the blizzard.

The storm also brought 100 mph winds to New Mexico, where powerful gusts ripped away the roof of the White Sands Missile Range's police station.

At least five deaths were blamed on the weather, including a hunter in northern Arizona who was killed Monday night when the top of a large pine tree snapped off and crushed him as he slept in a tent and driver whose sport utility vehicle plunged 90 feet off an icy road into the Texas Panhandle's Palo Duro Canyon.

In two Utah counties alone, there were 155 vehicle accidents involving property damage in 14 hours, the Utah Highway Patrol said. Heavy ice forced road closures in Oklahoma and Arizona.

With travel likely to get worse, officials were warning residents in parts of the west and Midwest to stay close to home. Blizzard warnings were issued for most of Iowa as well as eastern Nebraska, northeastern Kansas, southern Minnesota and southern Wisconsin.

Some grade schools closed before the worst of the storm was expected to hit so that buses wouldn't slip on slick roads, while some universities also canceled Wednesday classes and events.

"Anybody traveling tomorrow morning is really taking a huge risk I would say—a risk of being stranded and not having anybody be able to help you for 6 or 12 hours, probably," said Karl Jungbluth, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Johnston, Iowa.

AP sources: Dems reach deal to drop govt-run plan

WASHINGTON (AP)—After days of secret talks, Senate Democrats tentatively agreed Tuesday night to drop a full-blown government-run insurance option from sweeping health care legislation, several officials said, a concession to party moderates whose votes are critical to passage of President Barack Obama's top domestic priority.

In its place, officials said Democrats had tentatively settled on a private insurance arrangement to be supervised by the federal agency that oversees the system through which lawmakers purchase coverage, with the possibility of greater government involvement if needed to ensure consumers of sufficient choices in coverage.

Additionally, the emerging agreement calls for Medicare to be opened to uninsured Americans beginning at age 55, a significant expansion of the large government health care program that currently serves the 65-and-over population.

At a hastily called evening news conference in the Capitol, Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., declined to provide details of what he described as a "broad agreement" between liberals and moderates on an issue that has plagued Democrats' efforts to pass health care legislation from the outset.

With it, he added with a smile, the end is in sight for passage of the legislation that Congress has labored over for months.

The officials who described the details of the closed-door negotiations did so on condition of anonymity, saying they were not authorized to discuss them publicly. Several officials stressed that so far, Democrats had technically agreed only on submitting proposals to the Congressional Budget Office for their impact on the bill's cost and other analysis.

Student opens fire in Va. classroom; no injuries

WOODBRIDGE, Va. (AP)—A 20-year-old student opened fire in a community college classroom, but did not hit anyone and was arrested in a hallway, police said Tuesday.

No injuries were reported following the afternoon shooting at Northern Virginia Community College's campus in Woodbridge, about 25 miles south of Washington, D.C.

Jason Michael Hamilton, 20, of Manassas was later charged with attempted murder and discharging a firearm in a school zone and was being held without bond. Whether Hamilton had hired an attorney was not immediately clear.

Prince William County Police spokeswoman Kim Chinn said the student, armed with a high-powered rifle, fired several shots and left the classroom. Officers found him in a hallway where he was cooperative and was taken into custody, Chinn said.

The spokeswoman said the unidentified teacher ducked when the student opened fire.

"When she saw the gun, she hit the floor," Chinn said.

Hamilton did not have the gun when he was arrested, but told police where it was, the spokeswoman said.

Chinn said she didn't know exactly where Hamilton's rifle was found, but it wasn't in the classroom.

Police spokeswoman Sharon Richardson said officers responded about 2:40 p.m. to an "active shooter" situation following reports of a gunman in the main administration building.

The college enacted its emergency lockdown procedures and later issued a statement saying all Woodbridge classes were canceled Tuesday because of the shooting. Some students, faculty and staff were sent to a nearby high school.

All classrooms are in one building and the students were in lockdown until about 5:30 p.m. Swat teams went into each classroom during the lockdown, said Chinn, who didn't know how many students were inside or how many shots were fired.

Accused terrorist bridged two different worlds

CHICAGO (AP)—Part American and part Pakistani, the Chicago man accused of conspiring in the bloody terrorist attacks in Mumbai has followed a twisted trail through two different worlds.

David Coleman Headley grew up in two countries and ended up with two names. A troubled young man, he dropped out of school, was convicted of heroin smuggling and ended up broke and jobless.

But it was in a bleak apartment on Chicago's North Side where prosecutors say Headley emerged with a secret identity—an international terrorist accused of helping plan the November 2008 attacks in Mumbai, India, that left 166 dead.

"Call me old-fashioned, but I feel disposed towards violence for the offending parties," Headley allegedly wrote on a Web site, referring to people he believed had defiled the sacred name of Islam. He was angered by a Danish newspaper that featured a series of cartoons, one showing the Prophet Muhammad with a bomb in his turban.

"They never started debates with folks who slandered our Prophet, they took violent action," Headley wrote, according to federal court documents. "Even if God doesn't give us the opportunity to bring our intentions to fruition, we will claim ajr (a religious award) for it."

Headley was charged Monday with conspiring in the planning of the November 2008 attacks. Prosecutors accused him of scouting out targets, including the Taj Mahal and Oberoi hotels, the Leopold Cafe, a landmark called Nariman House and a large railroad station, all of which were struck by terrorists.

The 49-year-old Headley was scheduled to appear in federal court Wednesday. He could get the death penalty if convicted. Authorities in Washington say he is cooperating with the government.

Headley also is charged with planning an armed attack on the Danish newspaper, Jyllands-Posten, which published a dozen cartoons in 2005 that depicted the Prophet Muhammad and set off protests in the Muslim world.

ACROSS THE NATION

Ohio executes inmate with 1-drug lethal injection

LUCASVILLE, Ohio (AP)—Ohio executed a killer Tuesday by performing the nation's first lethal injection using a single drug, a supposedly less painful method than previous executions that required three drugs. Kenneth Biros was pronounced dead at 11:47 a.m. Tuesday, about 10 minutes after one dose of thiopental sodium began flowing into his veins at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility in Lucasville. The U.S. Supreme Court had rejected his final appeal about two hours before. Experts predicted the thiopental sodium would take longer to kill the 51-year-old Biros than the convention three-drug cocktail, but the 10 minutes it apparently took him to die was about the usual length of time even under the method previously used by Ohio and still used by most other death penalty states. The mother, sister and brother of Biros' victim, Tami Engstrom, applauded as the warden announced the time of death.

4 slain Wash. officers honored at memorial

TACOMA, Wash. (AP)—About 20,000 mourners, mostly members of law enforcement from Washington state and across the country, honored four slain officers who were remembered Tuesday as heroes and loving family members. A procession of 2,000 cars followed the flag-draped caskets of Sgt. Mark Renninger and Officers Ronald Owens, Tina Griswold, and Greg Richards to the Tacoma Dome, where the memorial service was held. Several candlelight vigils have been held for the officers since the shooting on Nov. 29, but Tuesday's memorial service and procession are believed to be the largest in state history. "I would have gone through any door with Mark and I trusted him with any mission," said Assistant Chief Mike Villa, of the Tukwila Police Department, where Renninger once worked. "I will not forget Mark, the good that he did or the life that he led."

Man stable after being stuck 4 hours in cesspool

EAST HILLS, N.Y. (AP)—A man was rescued after spending more than four hours Tuesday trapped up to his chest in sand and soil after falling into a Long Island cesspool, authorities said. The man, who was not immediately identified, was in stable condition after being taken to a hospital. Assistant Roslyn Fire Chief Adam Boll said the man appeared to be in his 20s. Rescue personnel monitored the victim's vital signs throughout the rescue operation and he was always in stable condition, Boll said. Authorities were called to the neighborhood of million-dollar homes on Long Island's so-called "Gold Coast" shortly after 11 a.m. Nassau County Police Detective Lt. Kevin Smith said the worker had apparently been inside the 18-foot hole, working to install a new cesspool tank, when the dirt walls surrounding him began to collapse.

Asia

RP police: 161 suspects in massacre sought

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine police on Wednesday identified 161 suspects in the massacre of 57 people last month, including government militiamen led by members of a powerful clan facing murder and rebellion charges.

Witnesses have identified Andal Ampatuan Jr., the scion of the clan, leading the group of militiamen who stopped his rival's convoy that included 30 journalists and their staff on Nov. 23 in the southern province of Maguindanao, national police chief Jesus Verzosa told reporters.

He said witnesses told investigators Ampatuan himself shot some of the victims in Ampatuan township—named after his family that has ruled the impoverished province unopposed for years. The bodies troops found hours later bore bullet wounds in the mouth and chest fired from close range, Verzosa said.

Police also said the bodies of some of the 21 women were mutilated, including their sexual organs. Authorities earlier said at least five women may have been raped.

Police said the militiamen, most of them still at large, were identified by witnesses Tuesday. Their names will be submitted to prosecutors to be included in the charge sheet and court warrants of arrest.

The mug shots of about 100 newly identified suspects were displayed at the national police headquarters in Manila. Of 161 suspects identified by authorities, 100 are militiamen and the remainder are members of the Ampatuan clan, according to police, army and local officials. About 30 have been arrested.

Ampatuan turned himself in three days after the Nov. 23 killings and denied involvement. His father, the family patriarch, and other relatives also have been arrested.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo last week declared martial law in Maguindanao, allowing government forces to arrest other members of the clan without waiting for court warrants and order some 2,400 loyalists to surrender their weapons.

Air force planes and helicopters dropped thousands of leaflets Tuesday urging the Ampatuan followers to give up or face an assault.

"We have to resolve this case peacefully," Verzosa said. "We are urging them to surrender and then the normal processes of the law and prosecution should be held and this is what we are trying to tell everybody, that we must be governed by laws and the rule of laws must be respected."

AP

Philippine National Police Chief Jesus Versoza, right, points at mug shots of suspected members of the government armed militia who allegedly participated in the massacre of 57 people in Maguindanao province during a press conference at Camp Crame, police headquarters in suburban Quezon City, north of Manila, Philippines on Wednesday Dec. 9, 2009.

Myanmar state media scolds democracy icon Suu Kyi

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar's state media accused detained democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi of using the media to make the country's military rulers look bad, warning Wednesday it could hurt her efforts to meet with the junta chief.

In recent months, Suu Kyi has sent two letters to Senior Gen. Than Shwe saying she is willing to work with the government to get Western sanctions against Myanmar lifted. In the most recent letter, dated Nov. 11, she requested a meeting with him.

A commentary in Wednesday's Myanma Ahlin newspaper accused Suu Kyi and her opposition party, the National League for Democracy, of leaking the letter to the media before it reached Than Shwe to put pressure on the government.

Commentaries in Myanmar's state-run media are viewed as reflections of the junta's views.

"She should have approached the government in an honest way in order to work out the stalemate," the commentary said. "Her letters suggest her dishonesty and are designed to tarnish the image of the ruling government."

"If the NLD and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi really want to work together with the government in the national interest, they can deliver letters directly to the head of state," the commentary said. "They sent letters by post, but the news about the letters had received media coverage, from the Internet down to radio stations, before the letters were received by the person concerned."

It added: "The attempt of one side to force the other into a corner by making dishonest use of the media might delay the other's response."

In her Nov. 11 letter, Suu Kyi also requested permission to meet in her home with leaders of her opposition party.

Suu Kyi has been detained for 14 of the past 20 years, mostly under house arrest.

NLD spokesman Nyan Win said he hoped the commentary did not reflect the junta's position.

"Daw Aung San Suu Kyi wrote the letter with good intentions for the good of the country," Nyan Win said. "This (letter) was not confidential and our goal was to make it public at an appropriate time. We did not intend to pressure the government."

FBI takes US terror probe to India and Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (AP)—The FBI is sending a team to Pakistan and India as part of an inquiry into a Chicago man accused of plotting against a Danish newspaper and sizing up targets ahead of last year's deadly terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India's financial capital.

Pakistan's role in alleged plots spanning three countries has increasingly come under scrutiny as new details emerge about the case and suspect David Coleman Headley's links to the country.

Headley, 49, an American of Pakistani descent, and Chicago businessman Tahawwur Rana, 48, a Pakistani-born Canadian national, were charged in October with conspiring to attack the Jyllands Posten newspaper in Denmark. The newspaper had published 12 cartoons depicting the Prophet Muhammad in 2005 that set off protests in parts of the Muslim world.

The U.S. charges also said Headley, who had changed his name from Daood Gilani, had attended militant training camps in Pakistan and conspired with members of the Pakistan-based militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba to conduct extensive surveillance on potential targets in the Indian city of Mumbai before the terrorist attacks there in November 2008 that left 166 people dead.

The U.S. allegations offer a vivid illustration of Pakistan's militant problem as the Washington presses Islamabad to do more to stop it from spilling over the border into Afghanistan.

Headley was born in Washington as Daood Gilani to a Pakistani father and American mother who later moved to Pakistan where he spent his early years.

He met Rana when they were both teenagers at the Hasan Abdal Cadet College, a prestigious Pakistani boarding school with red brick buildings and manicured grounds outside the capital, Islamabad.

They both entered in 1974, but only Rana completed the five-year term. Administrators say Headley left after three years to go live with his mother, who had returned to the United States after divorcing his father. The two maintained contact with graduates of the academy via e-mail as part of an alumni group.

WORLD BRIEFS

Antarctic nations consider new controls on ships

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Countries that manage Antarctica are considering new controls on ships visiting the frozen continent to reduce the growing threat of human and environmental disasters posed by exploding numbers of tourists, an official said Wednesday. A proposal for a code to ensure ships plying the world's southernmost seas could withstand hitting an iceberg and other measures are being discussed at a meeting this week in New Zealand of more than 80 experts from signatories to the Antarctic Treaty, the international accord to oversee the region. Antarctica's pristine environment, unpredictable and extreme weather, mostly uncharted waters and vast distances from habitation pose major dangers for vessels and major problems for rescuers in any emergency.

Lawyer says police want Chinese dissident indicted

BEIJING (AP)—The lawyer for a prominent Chinese dissident detained for a year without charge says police have finally presented their case against Liu Xiaobo to prosecutors. Lawyer Shang Baojun said Wednesday he received a copy of the investigator's report, which alleges Liu incited to subvert state power with several essays he posted online and by helping produce Charter 08, an unusually direct appeal for more civil rights in China and an end to the Communist Party's political dominance. Liu, a former university professor who spent 20 months in jail after joining pro-democracy protests in 1989, was taken away by police on Dec. 8, 2008, and held at a secret location for six months. He was formally arrested in June.

Malaysian faces trial in rare seduction case

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—A Malaysian man is facing trial for allegedly seducing another man's wife—a charge under a rarely used law that defense lawyers criticized Wednesday as archaic and tantamount to sexual discrimination. A decades-old law dating from the British colonial era calls for a two-year prison sentence for any man who "entices away" a married woman with the intention of having sex with her. The law was invoked for the first time since the 1980s when businessman Ryan Chong initiated a criminal case against Choy Khin Ming earlier this year. Chong accused Choy of having a 14-month affair with his wife, television celebrity Daphne Iking, between 2007 and 2008.

Japanese minister says talks on US base suspended

TOKYO (AP)—Talks on the relocation of a major American military base have been suspended, deepening a deadlock between the United States and Japan.

Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada said Tuesday a high-level working group convened to discuss the move has been suspended and no date for a restart had been set, the Kyodo News agency reported.

Many on the southern Japanese island of Okinawa want the U.S. base closed and its functions moved off the island altogether. They say it poses a threat to the safety of the people who live near it, and have complained of base-related crime and environmental issues.

The relocation of the Marine Corps Air Station Futenma is at the center of a dispute between Tokyo and Washington. Japan and the United States agreed in 2006 to relocate the base to a site farther north. But Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama has put the deal on hold and indicated the relocation site could be changed.

Hatoyama, who took office in September, has expressed support for moving the base off the island, although Japan's previous government agreed with the United States that a new facility would be built on Okinawa.

"We are now waiting to see whether we should hold the discussions again," Okada said without elaborating, according to Kyodo. A Foreign Ministry spokesman declined to comment.

U.S. State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley downplayed Okada's statement, telling reporters in Washington on Tuesday that Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia Kurt Campbell has been working closely with Japanese officials Monday and Tuesday on the base matter.

"We will continue our close consultation with Japan as it works through these issues," Crowley said. The United States, he said, believes that the current realignment plan is the best way to reduce Okinawa's burden while maintaining the U.S.-Japan alliance.

World

Militants strike Baghdad govt targets, 127 dead

BAGHDAD (AP)—A suicide car bomb flattened a court building and an explosives-rigged ambulance blew down walls like dominos near the Finance Ministry during a wave of coordinated attacks Tuesday that targeted high-profile symbols of Iraqi authority. At least 127 people were killed.

The blasts—at least five in total—marked the third major strike on government sites since August and brought uncomfortable questions for Iraqi leaders. These include signs al-Qaida in Iraq is regrouping and concerns over the readiness of Iraqi forces to handle security alone as U.S. forces depart.

The bombings also brought swift accusations about the motives behind the attacks. Officials claimed a Sunni insurgent alliance, including members of Saddam Hussein's banned Baath Party, seeks to undermine the pro-Western government ahead of elections set for March 7 and the later withdrawal of U.S. combat forces.

Authorities also faced angry questions about how bombers again found holes in Iraqi security.

"If security falls apart, then everything will collapse," said Abbas al-Bayati, head of parliament's defense committee and an ally of the Shiite government, as lawmakers convened an emergency session.

Another lawmaker, Saadi al-Barazanji, shouted: "If I were the interior minister, I would resign!"

The attacks began with a suicide strike on a police patrol. An hour later, four more explosions rumbled across Baghdad in the span of a few minutes. Suicide car bombings hit three sites: the main Appeals Court, an area outside the Finance Ministry and a government compound that includes the Labor Ministry. A roadside bomb also went off near a university.

Iraq's Health Ministry reported at least 513 people were wounded.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. However, multiple bombings are a hallmark of al-Qaida. The past two major strikes on Iraqi government sites were coordinated blasts in August and October that took more than 255 lives. Sunni groups linked to al-Qaida eventually issued statements saying they carried out the attacks.

Iraq's government, however, has tried to cast blame on Saddam loyalists - even parading three suspects on national television who gave what officials termed confessions for the October attacks.

AP

Fire fighters and rescuers search for survivors at the site of a bomb attack near the new Finance Ministry in Baghdad, Iraq, Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2009.

EU: Jerusalem should be joint capital

BRUSSELS (AP)—European Union foreign ministers urged Israel and the Palestinians on Tuesday to make Jerusalem their shared capital, prompting a swift, angry reaction from Israel.

For their part Tuesday, the Palestinians announced a boycott of products made in Israeli settlements in the West Bank. Palestinian Economics Minister Hassan Abu Libdeh said the government has already confiscated $1 million worth of products, including foods, cosmetics and hardware, and that he hoped to remove all such goods from Palestinian store shelves next year.

In Brussels, EU foreign ministers reiterated that the 27-member bloc would not recognize Israel's annexation of the eastern part of Jerusalem after it occupied it in the 1967 war. The ministers called for Israel to share Jerusalem as a capital with a future Palestinian state.

Although the EU has long opposed the annexation of east Jerusalem, the statement angered Israel and was sure to deepen Israel's sense that the Europeans favor Palestinian positions. President Barack Obama has been trying, so far in vain, to nudge the sides toward renewed peace talks.

"The EU will not recognize any changes to the pre-1967 borders including with regard to Jerusalem, other than those agreed by the parties," said the ministerial statement. It was referring to the Mideast war in which Israeli forces captured east Jerusalem from the Jordanian army.

"If there is to be a genuine peace, a way must be found (through negotiations) to resolve the status of Jerusalem as the future capital of two states," it said.

The EU ministerial statement dropped an earlier Swedish draft resolution which explicitly stated that east Jerusalem—the disputed part of the holy city—should be the capital of a Palestinian state after Israel warned it would damage the bloc's ability to take part in any resumed peace talks as a negotiator.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry reacted immediately. "We regret that the European Union chose to adopt the text," Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Yigal Palmor said in a statement. He said the statement "does not contribute" to promoting peace and ignores the Palestinians' refusal to resume talks.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas refuses to resume peace talks, which broke down a year ago, unless Israel halts all settlement construction.

Students, militia clash in 2nd day of Iran protest

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Hard-line militiamen firing tear gas and throwing stones stormed a crowd of thousands of university students protesting for a second day Tuesday, as Iran threatened a tougher crackdown on the opposition after the biggest anti-government demonstrations in months.

More than 200 people were arrested in Tehran on Monday during protests by tens of thousands at universities nationwide, and Iran's top prosecutor warned further unrest would not be tolerated. He hinted authorities could even pursue the top opposition leader, Mir Hossein Mousavi, an escalation the government has so far balked at in Iran's postelection turmoil.

Masked motorcyclists—likely hardline militiamen—harassed Mousavi at his Tehran office on Tuesday. An angry Mousavi confronted them, daring them, "Kill me!" before being hustled away by aides, according to pro-opposition Web sites.

Authorities appear concerned that the protest movement could pick up new steam after Monday's demonstrations, in which students clashed with police and militiamen in the streets of Tehran.

A fierce crackdown since the summer crushed the mass protests that erupted after June's disputed presidential election. But Monday's unrest showed how students have revitalized the movement. They showed an increased boldness, openly breaking the biggest taboo in Iran, burning pictures of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and chanting slogans against him.

The protests spilled over into a second day Tuesday. Several thousand students rallied in Tehran University, chanting slogans and waving Iranian flags in front of the Engineering College when they were assaulted by hardline Basij militiamen, witnesses said. At least one student was dragged away, the witnesses said.

Footage posted on the Internet, said to be from Tuesday, showed the crowd of students sitting in front of the college building, many wearing surgical masks and scarves over their faces against gas or to hide their identities.

Report: Brazil police killed more than 11,000

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Police in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo have killed more than 11,000 people in the past six years, many execution-style, according to a report released Tuesday by Human Rights Watch.

Few of the officers have been charged in the extrajudicial killings, which are often labeled in police reports as the deaths of suspects who resisted arrest, the report said.

The 122-page declaration echoes a 2008 United Nations' finding that police throughout Brazil were responsible for a "significant portion" of 48,000 slayings the year before.

"Extrajudicial killing of criminal suspects is not the answer to violent crime," said Jose Miguel Vivanco, Americas director at Human Rights Watch. "The residents of Rio and Sao Paulo need more effective policing, not more violence from the police."

Isabel Figueiredo, Brazil's coordinator-general of human rights and public safety, acknowledged that police violence is a widespread problem and "it concerns the federal government a great deal."

Figueiredo said authorities have launched a series of initiatives to confront the problem, including training police to respect human rights and the appropriate use of force, in addition to the purchase of less-lethal weapons for state police forces.

Security forces "have begun to understand that instead of solving the problem, confronting criminals with weapons leads to casualties on both sides," she said.

Officials from the Rio and Sao Paulo police departments did not comment.

WORLD BRIEFS

Guinea accuses France of complicity in shooting

CONAKRY, Guinea (AP)—The French ambassador was stopped and his diplomatic car was searched as troops loyal to Guinea's ruling junta continued a manhunt for the renegade soldier that shot and wounded the head of Guinea's military junta, an official said on Tuesday. The search of a diplomatic car is a violation of international law and is evidence of how uncontrolled the Guinean military has become following the assassination attempt on their leader who was evacuated overseas for emergency treatment last week, said a diplomat who had been briefed on the matter. Guinea's communications minister said he could not comment on the search of the ambassador's car, but accused the French secret service of "being complicit in the assassination attempt." He said that "only France knows where to find" Lt. Abubakar "Toumba" Diakite, the former head of the presidential guard who opened fire on Capt. Moussa "Dadis" Camara last Thursday, wounding him in the head and forcing him to leave the country for emergency surgery in Morocco.

Honduras' top anti-drug official killed

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—Gunmen on motorcycles ambushed and killed Honduras' top anti-drug official in the capital Tuesday, just two months before he planned to retire and move to Canada. Former army Gen. Julian Aristides Gonzalez, director of the Office for Combatting Drug Trafficking, was driving alone after dropping his daughter at school when assailants opened fire and then fled, national police spokesman Orlin Cerrato said. No arrests have been made, and investigators were trying to determine a motive. Last year, Gonzalez said he had received death threats from drug traffickers.

Death penalty for gays? Uganda debates proposal

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP)—Proposed legislation would impose the death penalty for some gay Ugandans, and their family and friends could face up to seven years in jail if they fail to report them to authorities. Even landlords could be imprisoned for renting to homosexuals. Gay rights activists say the bill, which has prompted growing international opposition, promotes hatred and could set back efforts to combat HIV/AIDS. They believe the bill is part of a continentwide backlash because Africa's gay community is becoming more vocal. "It's a question of visibility," said David Cato, who became an activist after he was beaten up four times, arrested twice, fired from his teaching job and outed in the press because he is gay. "When we come out and ask for our rights, they pass laws against us."

Environment

UN: 2000-2009 could be Earth's warmest decade ever

By CHARLES J. HANLEY
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

COPENHAGEN (AP)—Negotiators at the U.N. climate conference have displayed charts of data that said the current decade is on track to be the hottest on record for planet Earth.

The U.N.'s weather agency boosted the sense of urgency surrounding the conference with data showing this decade is on track to be the hottest since records began in 1850, with 2009 the fifth-warmest year ever. The second warmest decade was the 1990s.

Only the United States and Canada experienced cooler conditions than average, the World Meteorological Organization said, though Alaska had the second-warmest July on record. In central Africa and southern Asia, this will probably be the warmest year, but overall, 2009 will "be about the fifth-warmest year on record," said Michel Jarraud, secretary-general of the Swiss-based agency.

The last few decades are the warmest period in at least 400 years and probably 1,000 years, based on evidence from tree rings, retreating glaciers and other scientific methods to track climate before record-keeping, according to a 2006 report by the U.S. National Academy of Sciences.

Although temperatures have fluctuated, the causes were natural. The difference now is that they are being driven up by human activity, that modern civilization has many more coastal cities and needs to feed far more people, and that scientists believe humans can head off such dangerous warming.

Without a global deal stopping climate change, the planet's average temperatures will rise by more than 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees F) "well before the end of the century," Jarraud said.

"What we want is to provide the best possible data for negotiators," said Jarraud, who called the WMO data evidence "this is indeed globally the warmest period for more than 2,000 years."

The current decade has been marked by dramatic effects of warming.

In 2007-2009, the summer melt reduced the Arctic Ocean ice cap to its smallest extent ever recorded. In the 2007-2009 International Polar Year, researchers found that Antarctica is warming more than previously believed. Almost all glaciers worldwide are retreating.

Destructive species such as jellyfish and bark-eating beetles are moving northward out of normal ranges, and seas expanding from warmth and glacier melt are encroaching on low-lying island states.

Carbon dioxide concentrations are expected to peak next year at a record high above 390 parts per million, up from 315 ppm when the first such measurements were taken a half-century ago.

"We are really on the higher end, at the pessimistic part of these ranges," Jarraud said. "So if nothing is done, we are going for much more than 2 degrees."

Swiss climatologist Thomas Stocker of the University of Bern noted that carbon dioxide levels are "higher than ever in the last 800,000 years," based on comparisons with ancient pockets of carbon dioxide trapped in polar ice core samples.

He said the C02 atmospheric concentrations have risen at a rate at least 10 times faster than ever before seen in paleoclimatic history.

The WMO also noted an extreme heat wave in India in May and a heat wave in northern China in June. It said parts of China experienced their warmest year on record, and that Australia so far has had its third-warmest year. Extremely warm weather was also more frequent and intense in southern South America.

According to the U.S. space agency NASA, the other warmest years since 1850 have been 2005, 1998, 2007 and 2006. NASA says the differences in readings among these years are so small as to be statistically insignificant.

The U.N. agency reported that the global combined sea surface and land surface temperature for the January-October 2009 period is estimated at 0.44 degrees C (0.79 degrees F) above the 1961-1990 annual average of 14.00 degrees C (57.2 degrees F), with a margin of error of plus or minus 0.11 degrees C. Final data will be released early in 2010.

'The Survival of the Fattest' a sculpture by Danish artisit Jens Galschiot is seen in the harbor of Copenhagen on Tuesday Dec. 8, 2009. The sculpture represents an overweight Lady Justice figurine, symbolizing the rich industrialized world, sitting on the back of a thin worn-out African man. The largest and most important U.N. climate change conference is into its second day with organizers warning diplomats from 192 nations that this could be the best, last chance for a deal to protect the world from calamitous global warming.

AP

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson makes announcement on climate during a news conference in Washington, Monday, Dec. 7, 2009. The EPA took a major step Monday toward regulating greenhouses gases, concluding that climate changing pollution threatens the public health and the environment.

AP

Q&A about EPA action on warming

By DINA CAPPIELLO
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

A big meeting in Copenhagen. A cap-and-trade bill in Congress. And now, a determination by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that global warming pollution is a threat to public health—a move that clears the way for the first-ever federal regulations targeting climate-changing emissions.

Confused about the EPA's action on greenhouse gases?

Here are some questions and answers about what was announced by the EPA on Monday, and what it means for international climate negotiations, action in Congress and global warming in general:

Q: What did the EPA do exactly?

A: The EPA classified six greenhouse gases—carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulfur hexafluoride—as pollutants that threaten the health and welfare of the American people. This will compel the federal government—unless it is blocked by Congress—to regulate emissions of greenhouses gases for the first time under the 1970 Clean Air Act. The government already controls releases of sulfur dioxide, ground-level ozone, nitrogen oxides and carbon monoxide under the law.

Q: How do these six newly classified gases threaten people?

A: Unlike other pollutants, greenhouse gases threaten public health and welfare indirectly, by warming the planet rather than directly by breathing them in. In terms of health, the EPA expects global warming to expand the range of certain diseases such as Lyme disease, boost many allergens and worsen smog, which is known to trigger asthma attacks and cause lung damage. On the welfare front, a rise in sea level brought about by climate change could worsen flooding.

Q: Why did the EPA decide to do this?

A: A 2007 Supreme Court ruling declared that carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are air pollutants as defined by the Clean Air Act and that the EPA had the authority to regulate them if they are found to endanger public health and welfare. It directed the EPA to make that determination. The Bush administration never acted on the court order. By contrast, the Obama administration found the science overwhelming and announced it would set the first-ever greenhouse gas standards for automobiles and would move to control heat-trapping emissions from large industrial sources such as factories and power plants. The endangerment finding announced Monday was needed to make those proposed rules a reality.

Q: How does the EPA finding related to the climate negotiations now underway in Copenhagen, Denmark?

A: It will allow the Obama administration to present another piece of evidence that the White House—and the U.S.—is tackling global warming in the absence of new legislation and convince other nations that the U.S. it taking climate change seriously. However, the emission reduction target of 17 percent by 2020 that Obama will propose in Denmark falls short of what European leaders wanted and scientists say is needed to avoid the worst consequences of global warming. The EPA's endangerment finding in itself produces no pollution reductions without actual regulations—and those have yet to be written.

Q: How would the EPA regulate greenhouse gases?

A: The agency has plans to do something similar to what it does for other pollutants, by requiring new and expanding factories and power plants to install best-available technology to reduce heat-trapping pollution. For automobiles, it has drafted the first-ever greenhouse gas emissions standards that would require automobiles to be more fuel-efficient than they are today. But industry worries that the EPA could go further—regulating greenhouse gases from small sources such as buildings, farms and small businesses. The Obama administration has said it does not intend to do that.

Q: What would these new regulations cost?

A: It's not yet clear. The cost for power producers, which would likely be passed onto electricity customers, would depend on what technology the EPA requires. Pollution reductions could come from installing carbon capture technology, reducing energy use through efficiencies or shifting away from fossil fuels. The EPA estimates that it will cost automakers about $60 billion to meet planned fuel economy requirements. The cost to power plants and factories are likely to be more.

Q: Isn't Congress also trying to pass legislation to control greenhouse gas emissions?

A: Yes. In June, the House of Representatives passed a bill that would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 17 percent by 2020 and about 80 percent by 2050. But the Senate, which has been tied up with legislation to reform health care, is not expected to vote on the bill until next spring. Both versions of the bill limit how the EPA can use the Clean Air Act to regulate emissions, but to differing degrees. The legislation would reduce greenhouse gases by setting a limit on heat-trapping pollution and by allowing companies to buy and sell pollution permits as long as they don't exceed the overall limit. This system, known as cap-and-trade, would be more flexible and would probably be cheaper than straight EPA regulation.

Q: Which would come quicker: EPA regulations or Congressional action?

A: It's hard to say. The decision by the EPA will set in motion a complex set of rules that could take years to draft and could be delayed by lawsuits from the business community and others. Congress faces its own challenges in getting a bill passed. Many Republicans and moderate Democrats are worried cap-and-trade would increase energy prices and could result in job losses for those who work in energy-intensive industries. These concerns will only become magnified as mid-term elections in November get closer.

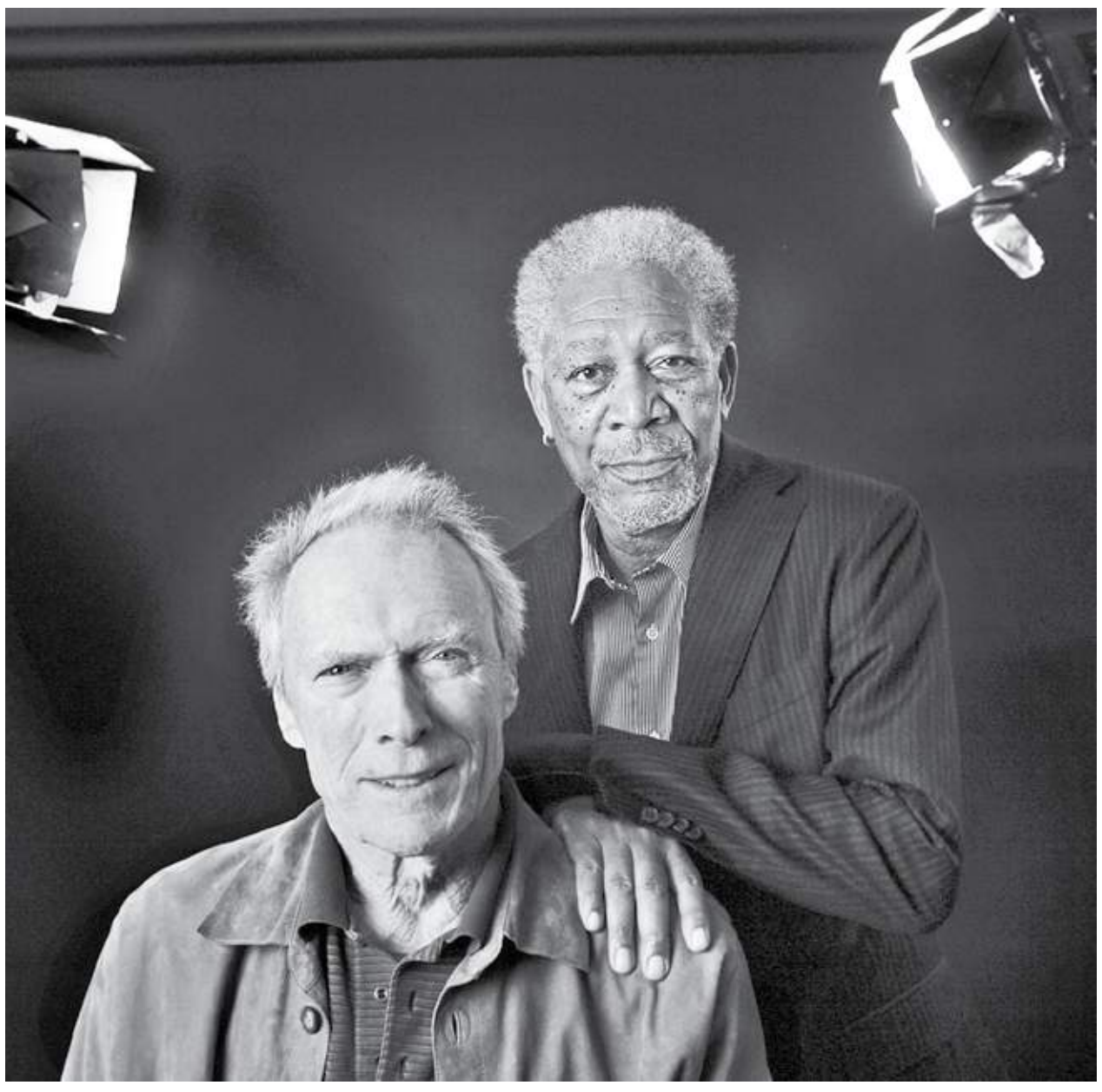
Q: How will the EPA decision affect Congress?

A: Prominent politicians on both sides of the aisle have said the Clean Air Act was not designed to control greenhouse gases. Supporters of cap-and-trade will try to use the EPA's decision to jump start action in Congress. But it could backfire. Earlier this year there were attempts to block EPA from taking action and to buy more time for Congress to draft a bill. Look for efforts to try and block EPA again.

Q: How can a gas we all exhale be considered a dangerous pollutant and be regulated?

A: Don't worry—the EPA has no plans to control breathing. But scientists say that the widespread burning of fossil fuels and activities that reduce the natural absorption of carbon dioxide on earth has disrupted the natural carbon cycle. Growing concentrations of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are creating a heat trapping blanket in the atmosphere, thereby warming the earth. The EPA's focus is to reduce the flow of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions from human activities, many related to burning fossil fuels.

Life & Style



LOS ANGELES TIMES

Clint Eastwood, 79, and Morgan Freeman, 72, reteam for "Invictus," a drama about a landmark South African rugby tournament directed by Eastwood and starring Freeman in a different sort of tough-guy role: Nelson Mandela, South Africa's benevolent but steely first post-apartheid president.

The unconquered lions of 'Invictus'

By REED JOHNSON
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Real Hollywood tough guys can wear Nike trainers or tasseled loafers.

Tough guys—the old-school variety, that is, as opposed to today's preening, pumped-up action heroes who yell out for a digital avatar when the going gets sticky—don't bark their thoughts in drill-sergeant cadences. They speak them in low, self-assured tones, befitting their muscular resumes.

Tough guys, at least those of a certain age, can be very mellow cats, sitting in the bar of the Carlyle Hotel, listening to jazz and munching peanuts. That's where Clint Eastwood, 79, and Morgan Freeman, 72, could be found one recent afternoon, the former attired in casual wear, the latter decked out in a trim pinstriped suit, his long legs stretched across the seat of a corner booth.

Collectively, in the course of distinguished careers, they've played geriatric astronauts and battle-scarred Secret Service agents, no-name cowboys and a San Francisco cop nicknamed "Dirty" who taunted criminals he'd cornered at the business end of a .44 Magnum (Eastwood), as well as ruthless pimps, kick-butt high school principals, a cool-under-fire president staring down a killer asteroid and the almighty himself (Freeman).

Last seen together on film putting a buffed Hilary Swank through a brutal regimen in "Million Dollar Baby" (2004), they reteamed for "Invictus," a drama about a landmark South African rugby tournament directed by Eastwood and starring Freeman in a different sort of tough-guy role: Nelson Mandela, South Africa's benevolent but steely first post-apartheid president.

Comfortably, they nodded at each other's blunt opinions and cracked up at each other's punch lines.

"I liked him as a person the first time I ever met him because he was a fan of 'The Outlaw Josey Wales,' " Eastwood said. "With Morgan Freeman, it's just a pleasure to watch every scene, every nuance."

Freeman paused before calling Eastwood's gambit. "Working with Clint is like every actor's dream who knows anything at all about what he's doing," he said. "A lot of actors think that they want strong directing. I can never quite figure out what that means. I don't want strong directing, except from the writer. And then I don't want the writer writing emotional reactions."

"Invictus," which opens Friday, is their third joint outing, and award-season hopes at Warner Bros. are running high. They first paired up on "Unforgiven" (1992), galloping toward bloody revenge as aging, unreconstructed outlaws with a deep-seated bond. "And the fact that they don't talk about the bond is what makes it good," Eastwood said. The film earned him an Oscar for best director; it also won the best picture award.

Twelve years later, in "Million Dollar Baby," he cast Freeman as the wise, humanistic Eddie "Scrap Iron" Dupris against Eastwood's obsessive, pugilistic Frankie Dunn. The movie hauled off the Academy Award for best picture as well as Oscars for best director, lead actress (Swank) and best supporting actor (Freeman).

Ask them what makes for good filmmaking, and these strong, silent types will turn downright loquacious. Leadership, they'll tell you. Dependable, talented colleagues. Creative risk-taking. An eye for spotting talent and knowing a good story. Above all, perhaps, the will to hold fast to one's core convictions.

Those also rank among the principal themes of "Invictus" (the Latin word for "unconquered"), which takes its title and philosophical cues from an 1875 verse by British poet William Ernest Henley that concludes with the lines, "I am the master of my fate: / I am the captain of my soul." Mandela has said that the poem helped sustain him spiritually during the 27 years he spent imprisoned at Robben Island after being convicted for his anti-apartheid activism.

How can a man spend 27 years in prison, then come out and forgive his jailers?" Freeman asked. Because "they forgave him too. He was convicted primarily not because he was treasonous in his speech, but he was head of Umkhonto we Sizwe, which was the Spear of the Nation," the military wing of the African National Congress. "He was a terrorist, as far as they were concerned," Freeman said. "But he understood how to work kindness."

Indeed, "Invictus" quietly posits the radical idea that empathy, reconciliation and forgiveness can accomplish more in life than any amount of macho posturing or bullying, violent behavior.

Set mainly in 1995, the screenplay by Anthony Peckham recounts a pivotal event that unfolded during the intense opening months of Mandela's presidency. The country still was struggling to master the abrupt transition from a society based on apartheid, or legally enforced racial separatism, to a color-blind "Rainbow Nation" (in Mandela's formulation), in which all would feel welcome. Meanwhile, South Africa's fledgling democracy was shaky, and many people feared civil war might break out. (Warning: Spoilers ahead.)

Sensing the potential symbolic healing value of the upcoming rugby World Cup tournament in South Africa, Mandela worked to get the country's black majority to rally around the nearly all-white Springboks national rugby team. Although blacks largely regarded the team as an odious legacy of the former white-minority ruling class, they ended up embracing Springboks and cheering it on to a stunning upset victory in the final against New Zealand's ferocious All Blacks (so named for their monochrome uniforms).

To achieve his national unity ends, Nelson also had to inspire the Springboks players to stretch beyond their customary mediocrity. He did this in part by forging a friendship with team captain Francois Pienaar, played by Matt Damon. The film thus becomes, among other things, a study in leadership styles.

Yet while "Invictus" chisels its way through several profiles in courage, one hovers over the film: that of wily, charismatic Mandela. "He has some kind of brilliance that we don't know about that would make him take a long-shot bet and take big swings at the bat, and make things happen," Eastwood said. "And he didn't seem to let anything get in his way. He just did what he felt was right."

Freeman's humanizing portrayal of Mandela attempts to allow the extraordinary but flawed man to step out somewhat from his long shadow. The actor had plenty of personal observation to draw on: He met Mandela in the early 1990s and has remained in touch through the years and considers himself a friend of the man black South Africans affectionately call Madiba, a sort of grandfatherly honorific.

"He's easier to play for me than it would be to play Clint Eastwood, whom I also know and have studied really closely," Freeman said in a voice suggesting the verbal equivalent of a wink. "Because he isn't anything special outside himself, you know what I mean? Not himself. He's not on any pedestal. When I talk about him, this is one thing I remember him saying: He can't forgive himself for his failures, as a father, as a son. So that's very informative in terms of who the man is. Yeah, he responds to people, but he doesn't strut."

Freeman also brings to the role an imposing knowledge of southern African regional history, politics and culture, which he honed while shooting his directorial debut, "Bopha!" (1993), starring Danny Glover as a conscience-stricken South African police officer.

"Invictus" was shot on location in Cape Town and Johannesburg. Casting the movie wasn't difficult, Eastwood said. The hard part was finding a script that didn't sprawl all over Mandela's entire life. He finally found it in an adaptation of John Carlin's book "Playing the Enemy: Nelson Mandela and the Game That Made a Nation."

"I always felt that Morgan was the ideal guy and should play Nelson Mandela, even before there was a script," Eastwood said. "Everybody thought that. It was kind of a conversation piece around the world. But nobody ever came up with it."

The only point about "Invictus" on which Eastwood and Freeman differ is whether South Africa's extraordinary, albeit still incomplete, racial and social rapprochement could offer a lesson for the U.S. Eastwood, grimacing, registered his doubts about the current state of the union.

"Everybody's divided, and everybody talks about going across party lines and doing this and being this," he said. "But we're all just full of. ... And we're fooling each other. You're talking to kind of a disenchanted guy. I don't think much of the Republicans in recent years, and I don't think much of the Democrats in recent years. And if a third party came along and they did the right thing, I would certainly be right there with 'em. That's what attracted me to this story, because this is about somebody who moved beyond that crap."

Freeman, taking all this in, offered a more upbeat assessment.

"I think in one position, one place in our minds or in our souls or in our psyches or whatever it is that makes us Americans, we're mired somewhere in the Dark Ages in terms of race," he said. "But on a completely other level, we're not at all. We have completely transcended all of it. We are a completely integrated, multiracial, multicultural society. We really are."

Five top publishers plan rival to Kindle format

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Five of the nation's largest publishers of newspapers and magazines are teaming up to challenge Amazon.com Inc.'s Kindle electronic-book reader with their own technology that would display in color and work on a variety of devices.

Time Inc., News Corp., Conde Nast, Hearst Corp., and Meredith Corp., whose magazines include Time, Cosmopolitan and Better Homes and Gardens, announced a joint venture on Tuesday to develop new ways of presenting publications digitally to rival Kindle's gray "electronic ink" technique.

The publishers' answer to the text-oriented Kindle promises to emphasize visuals, retaining the distinctive look of each publication. It also aims to incorporate videos, games and social networking along with a classic magazine layout that can be flipped through with the touch of a finger.

The new standards the publishers are jointly developing would let consumers read the digital publications on some tablet computers, portable electronic readers and smart phones that render color images.

"The genesis of this idea is to build a fully featured kind of immersive e-reading application that can render our content beautifully on those devices that come to market," said John Squires, the venture's interim managing director.

The Kindle has been available since 2007. Electronic books, newspapers and other publications that Amazon sells for the Kindle will only work with that device.

Companies in the joint venture are hoping to break that lock and sell content starting in 2010 using the new standards. Publishers outside the joint venture would be able to adopt them, too.

News Corp. Chief Executive Rupert Murdoch has made no secret of his dissatisfaction with the Kindle.

News Corp. receives a little more than a third of the $14.99 monthly subscription fee Amazon.com charges for The Wall Street Journal, but it has limited access to subscriber data, Murdoch said last month, describing why the relationship was "not a great deal."

AP

In this Feb. 9, 2009 file photo, the Kindle 2 electronic reader is shown at an Amazon.com news conference in New York.

"Kindle is a fantastic invention for reading books. It is not much of an experience for newspapers," he said.

Analysts said the publishers' joint venture to develop their own e-reader technology was a bold attempt to reassert control over their content before becoming prey to terms dictated by Amazon.com, Sony Corp. or Barnes & Noble Inc. on their electronic readers.

But Forrester Research media and technology analyst James McQuivey questioned whether the cost of making rich, interactive features would be worth the revenue it might bring in.

"It takes more time to make that kind of content in an environment where people are paying less," McQuivey said.

Content producers will also struggle to get people to pay for magazines and newspapers because many also offer free versions online. Such publications are unlike books, where the options are limited to digital downloads or paper copies from physical bookstores.

"'Will they pull content offline?' is a big question," said Outsell Inc. analyst Ned May. "It's a prisoner's dilemma. It takes just one person not to, to garner all the traffic and destroy the effort."

Representatives from Amazon.com, Sony and Barnes & Noble did not immediately return messages seeking comment.

The new joint venture would allow partners to set prices for their content. It also has plans to develop new advertising formats that are interactive and target an audience that is more engaged than in print.

The media companies are all equal partners in the venture. The companies said their publications reach 144.6 million people altogether.

Other online stores for digital copies of magazines have emerged, such as Zinio.com, or Time Inc.'s own Maghound.com.

But Squires, an executive vice president at Time Warner Inc.'s magazine unit, said the joint venture seeks to improve upon that experience.

Publisher of Obama's 'Audacity of Hope' steps down

NEW YORK (AP)—The publisher of President Barack Obama's book "The Audacity of Hope" has stepped down.

Jenny Frost, who as head of the Crown Publishing Group oversaw the release of the million-selling 2006 book, left Wednesday, effective immediately.

"Leaving was not my decision," she told The Associated Press in an e-mail message.

Crown's parent company, Random House Inc., announced Frost's departure and said it was a result of a "reorganization" of Crown, which is being split into "separately structured and distinct groups."

Random House spokesman Stuart Applebaum said that no staff reductions were planned and declined to make additional comment about Frost's leaving.

Frost, 53, had worked at Random House since the 1980s and served as president and publisher of Crown for the past seven years. She came out well from a major restructuring in 2008 when Random House consolidated its five major divisions into three, a move that added several imprints to Crown, and laid off an undetermined number of employees.

In her e-mail message, Frost said she had had an "amazing and wonderful 25 years with Random House" and now had "an opportunity to take some time to think about what I want to do next, and that, too, can be a tremendous gift."

Best sellers released during her reign included Ann Coulter's "Treason," Erik Larson's "The Devil in the White City," Obama's "Hope" and the million-selling re-issue of an earlier book by Obama, "Dreams From My Father." Next year, Crown will publish a memoir by former President George W. Bush.

Frost will be succeeded by Maya Mavjee, who starts her new job Jan. 1. She is currently executive publisher of the Doubleday Canada Publishing Group and executive vice president of Random House of Canada, Ltd.

Jamaica PM asks 2 rival deejays to end violence

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)—Two of Jamaica's most popular deejays sat down in the prime minister's office Tuesday, a rare face-to-face meeting between warring musicians whose rivalry police say promotes violence.

Prime Minister Bruce Golding requested the session with Adijah "Vybz Kartel" Palmer and David "Mavado" Brooks as the number of homicides on the Caribbean island approaches the record 1,674 set four years ago.

Nearly 1,600 slayings have been reported so far this year, and police contend the DJs' factions are gangs that use their rivalry as an excuse to commit crimes.

The two DJs agreed to hold a peace concert and remove graffiti encouraging their rivalry, among other things, said Bishop Herro Blair of the Faith Deliverance Center church, who attended the private meeting along with the government's ministers of education and national security.

"We had a very frank discussion about what we expect from our artists," Blair said. "They have agreed to join and try to defuse the matter."

The rivalry between Kartel and Mavado began four years ago, but it has intensified since late last year. Graffiti across Jamaica has fueled the feud, with their factions' nicknames—"Gaza" and "Gully"—increasingly scrawled on sidewalks, overpasses and abandoned buildings.

Gaza refers to the working-class town of Portmore, where Kartel hails from. Gully is the Cassava Piece neighborhood in St. Andrew parish where Mavado was born, a group of shacks along a stretch of gullies.

The majority of Gaza and Gully supporters are dancehall fans from poor communities, but also include the world's fastest man, sprinter Usain Bolt. He recently announced his support for Gaza and invited Kartel to sing at a fundraising dance Sunday.

Both Kartel and Mavado are known for violent and sexually explicit lyrics and have been arrested on several charges including assault and illegal gun possession that were later dropped.

Neither DJ could be reached for comment after the meeting at the prime minister's office.

Kartel has told local media his differences with Mavado are strictly musical. Mavado played down the rivalry in a recent newspaper interview. "I just want the youths who say 'Gully' or 'Gaza' to know that it's just music," he was quoted as saying.

Nobel author: Writing inspired by fear of death

By MALIN RISING
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

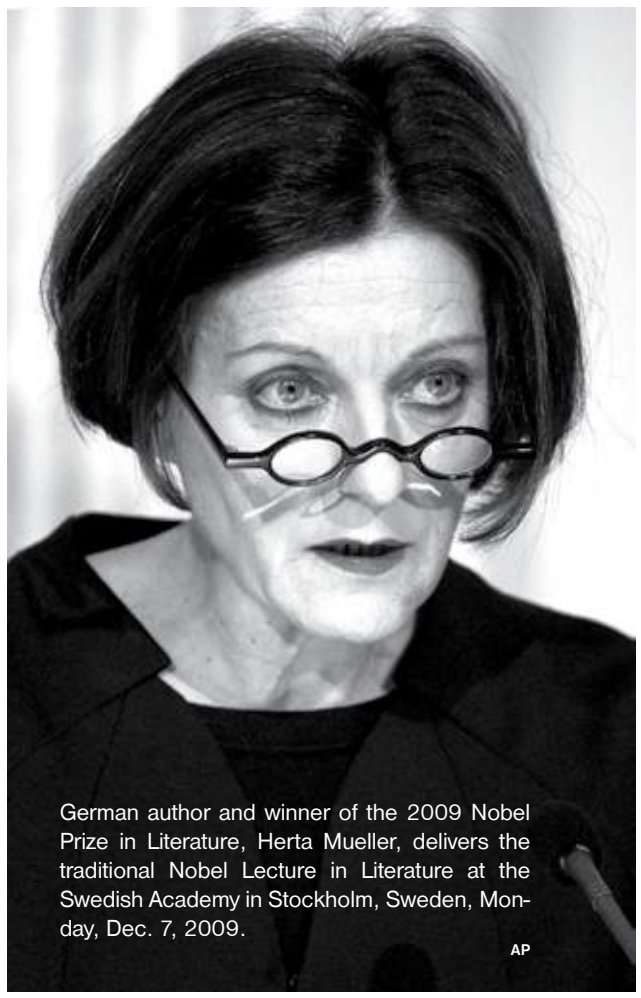
STOCKHOLM (AP)—The 2009 Nobel literature prize winner Herta Mueller said Monday she started writing when it was no longer possible to use spoken words to describe the despicable events in her native Romania under the dictatorship of Nicolae Ceausescu.

Mueller said she was persecuted after refusing to become an informant and paid tribute to those who live under totalitarian regimes today.

"I wish I could utter a sentence for all those whom dictatorships deprive of dignity every day, up to and including the present," she said in her Nobel lecture at the Swedish Academy on Monday.

The 56-year-old writer, whose prize was seen as recognition of the 20th anniversary of the fall communism, smuggled her early work into Germany to have it published. She moved there later, in 1987.

Mueller remembers how Ceausescu's officials threatened to kill her if she refused to sign on as an informant for the regime.



German author and winner of the 2009 Nobel Prize in Literature, Herta Mueller, delivers the traditional Nobel Lecture in Literature at the Swedish Academy in Stockholm, Sweden, Monday, Dec. 7, 2009.

AP

"I said ... to myself, If I sign that, I won't be able to live with myself anymore and I'll have to do it by myself," she said, referring to suicide. "What was happening could no longer be expressed in speech. I was reacting to the fear of death with a thirst for life."

Mueller, who writes in German, was praised by the Nobel Prize jury for "the concentration of poetry and the frankness of prose."

She said Monday that she remembers developing a hunger for words.

"Nothing but the whirl of words could capture my condition," she said.

Her latest novel, "Atemschaukel," or "Swinging Breath," describes the fate of a German deported from Romania to a Soviet gulag during the Stalin-era.

Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf will present her with the literature award Thursday when he delivers prizes to other Nobel laureates, including winners of the medicine, chemistry, physics and economics prizes.

U.S. President Barack Obama will travel to Oslo on Thursday to receive the Peace Prize at a separate ceremony—the only Nobel award presented in the Norwegian capital—in line with the 1895 will of prize founder Alfred Nobel.

FBI: Couple tried to extort US actor John Stamos

MARQUETTE, Michigan (AP)—A U.S. couple was charged with threatening to sell photos of John Stamos unless he paid them $680,000, the FBI said in court documents.

Stamos' spokesman Matt Polk said Tuesday there was nothing embarrassing about the images.

"At the conclusion of the investigation and hearing, the photos will be available and the public will be able to see that the photos are simply John posing with fans," Polk said.

Allison Coss and Scott Sippola were arrested last week on an extortion charge at an airport in Michigan after an undercover FBI agent had arranged to meet them there.

Coss and Sippola were released on bond on Dec. 3 and phone messages seeking comment from their lawyers went unreturned Tuesday.

Stamos

Stamos, whose TV credits include "ER" and "Full House" is on Broadway starring in "Bye Bye Birdie."

The FBI said it was contacted on Nov. 28 by a lawyer for an actor identified in a court document only as "Mr. X."

Stamos had received an e-mail from someone identified as "Brian L" threatening to release photos to the news media unless the actor paid $680,000, FBI agent Leslie Hahn said in an affidavit filed in federal court in Marquette.

Stamos met Coss in Florida in 2004 and attended a party with her where pictures were taken, Hahn said.

The FBI got involved by having an agent pose as Stamos' representative and communicate with "Brian L" by e-mail.

During a search of a Marquette home shared by the pair, the FBI found pieces of paper with Stamos' cell phone number and the names and phone numbers of three tabloid magazines.

Polk said Stamos would not comment on the case.

"The U.S. attorney and the FBI handled the investigation swiftly and with great expertise," Polk said.

Bryant Gumbel says he's had cancer surgery

NEW YORK (AP)—Bryant Gumbel shocked a television audience with the news that he's recovering from cancer surgery and treatment. The former "Today" show anchor, 61, said a malignant tumor and part of his lung were removed two months ago. He revealed his condition to Kelly Ripa while subbing for Regis Philbin on Tuesday's edition of "Live With Regis and Kelly." (Philbin recently had hip replacement surgery.)

"It's nothing to hide from," Gumbel said. "They opened up my chest, they took out a malignant tumor, they took out part of my lung and they took out some other goodies."

AP

This Nov. 16, 2009 file photo shows Bryant Gumbel attending the premiere of 'The Road' in New York.

Even with the surgery, some aggressive cancer cells had escaped, "so I went through some treatment and it's done now," he said.

The tumor was not in Gumbel's lung, but next to it, said Sean Cassidy, a friend of Gumbel's and president of DKC, a New York public relations firm. Gumbel is not a smoker, he said.

Gumbel said he and his wife, Hilary Quinlan, had wanted to keep the news private. He said he had even kept his staff at the HBO sports newsmagazine "Real Sports" in the dark. HBO said Gumbel didn't miss an episode, taping shows on both Sept. 15 and Oct. 27.

"We hope," he said. "We HOPE, it's over."

Gumbel was host of "Today" for 15 years, ending in 1997, as the show became a ratings juggernaut. He worked first with Jane Pauley, briefly with Deborah Norville, then with Katie Couric. He moved to CBS for a primetime newsmagazine. After that did poorly, he moved back to the mornings, hosting "The Early Show" from 1999-2002.

He's receded from the public eye since then, concentrating on "Real Sports," an Emmy-winning monthly magazine that takes a newsy look at sports issues.

Until he was called out by Ripa, there's some question about whether Gumbel's health news would still be under wraps.

Travis Barker settles suit over plane crash

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Former Blink-182 drummer Travis Barker has settled his lawsuit against several companies over a plane crash last year that killed four people, attorneys said Tuesday.

Barker was one of two survivors of the Sept. 19, 2008 crash that killed two pilots and two of his friends. Another survivor, celebrity disc jockey DJ AM, has since died of an accidental drug overdose.

The terms of the settlement are confidential, said William L. Robinson, an attorney representing some of the companies sued by Barker, including Learjet, Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. and the plane's owners and contractors.

Barker's attorney Walter Lack confirmed the settlement but declined further comment.

Barker sued a year ago claiming the companies improperly operated and maintained the Learjet that overshot the runway and burst into flames.

The case was delayed while the National Transportation Safety Board completed its investigation into why the private plane failed to takeoff from an airport in Columbia, South Carolina.

Investigators found the thrust reversers—devices on the back of jet engines that divert their thrust forward, helping to slow a plane or force it backward—were not in the right position to help slow down the plane.

The pilots were trying to abort takeoff at the Columbia Metropolitan Airport when the accident happened.

Changing the design of the thrust reversing system on the Learjet 60 to make its operation more intuitive could potentially help avert such deadly crashes, the NTSB wrote as one of its six recommendations.

Barker and DJ AM, whose real name is Adam Goldstein, suffered serious burns in the crash. Goldstein died in New York on Aug. 28. Medical examiners determined he died of a lethal cocktail of prescription drugs and cocaine.

His mother now controls his estate. A mediation conference is scheduled for Thursday, court filings show.

Barker filed his lawsuit along with the mother of his bodyguard, Charles Monroe Still Jr., who was killed in the crash. Still's mother has also settled her case, court filings show.

The settlements were first reported by TMZ.com.

CBS cancels another daytime drama

NEW YORK (AP)—Procter & Gamble, the company responsible for the phrase "soap operas," is out of the daytime drama business after 76 years now that CBS is making "As the World Turns" stop spinning.

The network announced the cancellation on Tuesday, the day "As the World Turns" broadcast its 13,661st episode. Its last episode will air next September, CBS said.

It's the second daytime drama CBS has canceled in a year, after "Guiding Light." They were the last two produced by a subsidiary of Procter & Gamble, the company for which the term "soap operas" was created because it used the shows to hawk products like Ivory soap and Duz laundry detergent.

Daytime dramas have been fading as a genre for years with more women joining the work force and the increased number of channels offering alternatives like news, talk, reality and game shows. In tough economic times, paying casts, producers and writers proved prohibitive to networks when there were cheaper alternatives.

The cancellation will leave CBS with only two daytime dramas: "The Young and the Restless" and "The Bold and Beautiful." ABC has three soaps left and NBC one.

Through the years, actors Marisa Tomei, Meg Ryan, Parker Posey and James Earl Jones have appeared on "As the World Turns." The show follows families in the Illinois town of Oakdale.

"It's a hell of a Christmas present," said actress Eileen Fulton, who will mark 50 years playing the character Lisa Grimaldi on the show. Her character has been through nine marriages and Fulton was hoping for a 10th before the signoff.

"I'm just very sad," she said. "I'm sad for all of the people who work out there in Brooklyn (where the show is filmed). We're a family. I hate to be split up. It's like a divorce."

Brian Cahill, senior vice president and managing director of the P&G subsidiary TeleNext Media Inc., said the company is actively seeking a new outlet to carry the show.

TeleNext said the same thing about "Guiding Light," which went off the air in September, but has been unable to find a new home.

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Old Dogs
Friday 4:25 7:15 9:30
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:15 9:30
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:15
John Travolta, Robin Williams
Comedy, Family • Rated PG
Synopsis
Two best friends—one unlucky-in-love divorcee and the other a fun-loving bachelor—have their lives turned upside down when they're unexpectedly charged with the care of 7-year-old twins while on the verge of the biggest business deal of their lives. The not-so-kid-savvy bachelors stumble in their efforts to take care of the twins, leading to one debacle after another, and perhaps to a new-found understanding of what's really important in life.

Ninja Assassin
Friday 4:30 7:10 9:40
Saturday 1:10 4:30 7:10 9:40
Sunday 1:10 4:30 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:10
Rain, Rick Yune
Action • Rated R
Synopsis
Raizo is one of the deadliest assassins in the world. Taken from the streets as a child, he was transformed into a trained killer by the Ozunu Clan, a secret society whose very existence is considered a myth. But haunted by the merciless execution of his friend by the Clan, Raizo breaks free from them...and vanishes. Now he waits, preparing to exact his revenge. In Berlin, Europol agent Mika Coretti has stumbled upon a money trail linking several political murders to an underground network of untraceable assassins from the Far East.

Paranormal Activity
Friday 4:10 7:30 9:50
Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:30 9:50
Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:30
Katie Featherston, Micah Sloat
Thriller, Horror • Rated R
Synopsis
After a young, middle class couple moves into what seems like a typical suburban "starter" tract house, they become increasingly disturbed by a presence that may or may not be demonic, but is certainly most active in the middle of the night. Especially when they sleep. Or try to.

Twilight Saga: New Moon
Friday 4:00 7:00 9:45
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:45
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00
Robert Pattinson, Kristen Stewart
Thriller, Romance • Rated PG 13

2012
Friday 4:05 7:05 10:10
Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 10:10
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:05
John Cusack, Amanda Peet
Action, Thriller • Rated PG 13

Planet 51
Friday 4:20 7:20 9:35
Saturday 1:30 4:20 7:20 9:35
Sunday 1:30 4:20 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:20
Gary Oldman, Jessica Biel
Comedy, Adventure • Rated PG 13

The Blind Side
Friday 4:15 7:25 10:00
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:25 10:00
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:25
Sandra Bullock, Tim McGraw
Drama, Biopic • Rated PG 13

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Topless photo of Polanski, Tate auctioned in NYC

NEW YORK (AP)—A topless photo of filmmaker Roman Polanski and his wife, Sharon Tate, taken just months before her murder has sold at a New York City auction for just over $11,000.

The black and white portrait by British photographer David Bailey shows the couple embracing. Christie's says it was sold Monday to an unidentified private buyer. The presale estimate was $8,000 to $12,000.

The 76-year-old Oscar-winning director is under house arrest in Switzerland. The United States wants him to face sentencing for having sex with a 13-year-old girl in 1977. He fled the U.S. before being sentenced.

His attorneys plan to argue before a California appeals court that the charges should be dismissed.

Tate was killed in 1969 by followers of Charles Manson.

In this Feb. 18, 1969 file photo, Roman Polanski is shown with his wife, the actress Sharon Tate, toasting the opening of "Rosemary's Baby" in London.

AP

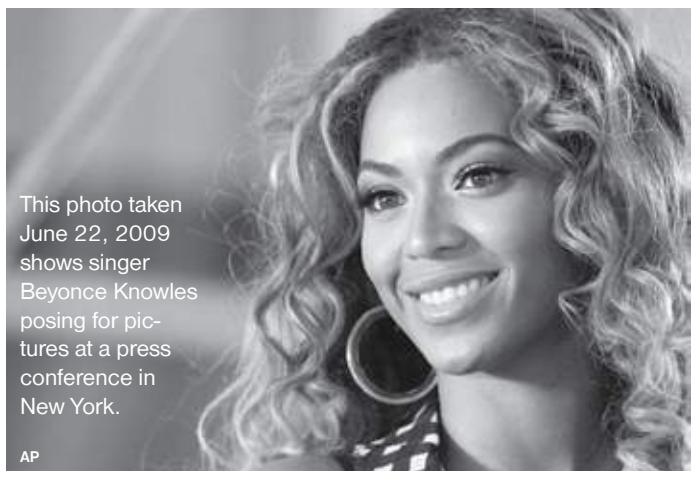
Beyonce talking Vegas shows with Wynn, but no deal

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Wynn Las Vegas officials say they're in preliminary talks with Beyonce to bring the superstar singer back to the Las Vegas resort.

Wynn Resorts spokeswoman Jennifer Dunne says there's no deal yet, despite published rumors of a lucrative, long-term contract.

Beyonce (bee-AHN'-say) appeared at the resort from July 30 through Aug. 2 this year while filming a concert DVD. Her shows helped boost visitation to Wynn and its sister Encore Las Vegas resort during a typically slow tourist season in Las Vegas.

Beyonce sang in the Encore Theater, where country star Garth Brooks plans to play a series of solo acoustic shows starting on Friday. Brooks' deal puts him in Las Vegas 15 weeks a year for possibly the next five years.



This photo taken June 22, 2009 shows singer Beyonce Knowles posing for pictures at a press conference in New York.

AP

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Raphael drawing sells for about $48M at UK auction

LONDON (AP)—Auctioneer Christie's says that a drawing by Raphael has sold for about 29.2 million pounds (about $47.5 million). Christie's says the Italian virtuoso's work has won one of the highest prices ever paid for an Old Master at auction. A portrait by Dutch master Rembrandt also fetched a high price, selling for 20 million pounds. The auctioneer said the works were sold as part of its Old Masters and 19th century art sale in London Tuesday. The sale realized 68,380,250 pounds.

Hepburn's dress takes nearly $100,000 at auction

LONDON (AP)—The black cocktail dress worn by Audrey Hepburn in "How to Steal a Million" has sold for nearly $100,000 at auction. Kerry Taylor Auctions says the Chantilly lace dress sold to an anonymous bidder for 60,000 pounds (about $97,700). It was one of 40 items from Hepburn's wardrobe sold off by her friend Tanja Star-Busmann. The auctioneer said Tuesday's sale made a total of 268,320 pounds. It says half of the net proceeds will go to The Audrey Hepburn Children's Fund.

Burglary reported at Nicky Hilton's LA home

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Police say they are investigating a burglary at the Los Angeles home of Nicky Hilton. Officer Gregory Baek says police were called Tuesday afternoon and were told that some unidentified items were missing from the home. He had no further details. Nicky Hilton, a clothing designer, is the younger sister of Paris Hilton and granddaughter of hotel magnate Barron Hilton. Paris Hilton, Lindsay Lohan and Orlando Bloom are among several young celebrities whose homes have been burglarized in recent months. Four people have pleaded not guilty to charges involving the theft of $3 million in jewelry, designer clothers and other items.

Autopsy finds overdose killed Springsteen's cousin

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP)—A medical examiner has found that the cousin of rock veteran Bruce Springsteen died from an accidental drug overdose. Kansas City television station KCTV reports that the autopsy results released Tuesday say 36-year-old Lenny Sullivan died of acute amphetamine and heroin intoxication. Sullivan was assistant road manager to Springsteen's E Street Band. He was found dead at Kansas City's InterContinental Hotel on Oct. 26, just hours before Springsteen and the band were to take the stage at the Sprint Center. The show was canceled.

ABC in talks with Cuomo for '20/20'

NEW YORK (AP)—ABC News' Chris Cuomo is likely to move to the nighttime newsmagazine "20/20" as its co-host. A network executive who spoke on condition of anonymity because the executive was not authorized to talk about hiring said Tuesday that Cuomo is in active negotiations for the job after apparently being passed over for "Good Morning America" co-host. Cuomo would co-anchor with Elizabeth Vargas and take on an expanded reporting role at the network. The executive said JuJu Chang has been offered Cuomo's current job as newsreader at "Good Morning America." The personnel changes mean it's likely that George Stephanopoulos will be announced as Diane Sawyer's successor on "Good Morning America" within days.

Leo Wolinsky named editor of Daily Variety

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Former Los Angeles Times editor Leo Wolinsky has been named editor of Daily Variety. Variety Group editor Tim Gray announced Wolinsky's hiring Tuesday. Wolinsky will be responsible for editorial content in the New York and Los Angeles print editions in the newly created position. He spent 31 years at the Times and rose from reporter to managing editor and executive editor. Wolinsky supervised coverage of the 1992 Los Angeles riots and the 1994 Northridge earthquake, helping the Times earn two Pulitzer Prizes. Before his departure last year, he was associate editor of features and entertainment coverage. Wolinsky will begin his new job in January.

Ansel Adams 'Moonrise' print sold for $360K in NYC

NEW YORK (AP)—A 1948 print of Ansel Adams' iconic photograph "Moonrise, Hernandez, New Mexico" has sold for $360,000 at an auction in New York City. Swann Auction Galleries said the rare print was bought Tuesday by a U.S. collector who wanted to remain anonymous. Its pre-sale estimate was $350,000 to $450,000. Made in a range of subtle grays, the signed print shows a nighttime moon over a cloud-fringed mountain range with a graveyard in the foreground. A later print of "Moonrise" sold at the same auction for $48,000, just over its high estimate of $45,000. The sale prices include a buyer's premium of 20 percent.

Edward Albee's 'Me, Myself & I' sets NY premiere

NEW YORK (AP)—The New York premiere of a play by Edward Albee will open the 40th anniversary season of off-Broadway's Playwrights Horizons. Artistic director Tim Sanford says "Me, Myself & I" will begin performances in August 2010. An opening date will be announced. The play will star Elizabeth Ashley as the mother of twin sons, both named Otto. "Me, Myself & I" had its world premiere at the McCarter Theatre in Princeton, N.J., in January 2008. Also in the New York cast is Brian Murray. Emily Mann, artistic director of the McCarter, will direct the off-Broadway production.

Girl is encouraged to be smart without becoming a show-off

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: Your advice to "Smart Seventh-Grader" (Sept. 26) was supportive, but did not address the heart of her problem. Many years ago I was that little girl. No one had explained to me there is a difference between knowing the answer to the teacher's questions and knowing how to THINK.

Her teachers and friends already know she knows all the answers. She has nothing to prove, so you should have told her to set herself an intellectual goal of asking questions in class that will spark the imaginations of other students and deepen the discussion.

When she can't do that, she can sit quietly and let the teacher interact with others who don't already know all the material. If she does, her teachers will bless her today, and she will bless you for the rest of her life.

No one likes to be around a know-it-all, and the sooner she learns that lesson the happier she'll be.

BARBARA, A LIBRARIAN IN NEW YORK

DEAR BARBARA: While I hate to see any child hide his or her light under a barrel, you are right about the importance of children developing social and coping skills. I received a blitz of e-mail from teachers and parents who echoed your sentiments. Read on:

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: As a teacher of 30 years, allow me to provide another response to "Smart Seventh-Grader." It's entirely possible that the student who accused her of being a "know-it-all" is one who would like to answer.

Does she raise her hand to answer every question the teacher asks? Some kids are intimidated by it, so she should limit herself so others also have a chance to answer. They need a chance to shine, too.

When kids stop raising their hands because one person always does, it's hard for the teacher to ignore the one kid. But teachers want others to learn, too. The ability to listen to others and share opportunities for learning will make her a better person.

SOUTH CAROLINA TEACHER

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am an adult now, but I was once that child. Grades came easily to me, and sometimes other kids made fun of me for being so smart. I purposely missed answers on tests at times to avoid getting a perfect score and being teased. I wanted to fit in. I learned early that intelligence was not something to be prized.

When I was older and began dating, I remember my mom telling me boys didn't like girls who were smarter or who beat them at sports or games. So I began hiding the gifts and talents God had blessed me with. I married young to a man who was intimidated by my intelligence, so I hid it away piece by piece until even I began to doubt my capabilities.

Then one day something happened that changed everything. I was granted another gift—a daughter who was blessed with a beautifully intelligent mind and reminded me of myself as a child. I saw her watch my every step and try to be like me. It was then that I realized I had to own and embrace my intelligence or she would hide hers and allow others to steal it away piece by piece.

Abby, it was life-changing. It has caused difficulties in my marriage because I suddenly changed the rules of the game, and I no longer allow myself to be less so that someone else can be more—but that change needed to happen.

May I share with "Smart Seventh-Grader" some of what I have shared with my daughter? NEVER hide your God-given talents to make someone else feel better. When people tease you about being smart, they're showing their own insecurity. Don't be afraid to answer questions, but don't "show off." Life is a balance. Embrace your intelligence and view it as the gift it is. If you let it shine, it will take you far.

OLDER AND WISER IN INDIANA

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

ARE THERE ANY MONSTERS UNDER MY BED TONIGHT?
OF COURSE NOT. COME UNDER AND SEE FOR YOURSELF.
YEAH, COME AND SEE. HEH HEH HEH.
OH RIGHT! YOU THINK I'M FALLING FOR THAT?! WHO AM I TALKING TO IF THERE AREN'T ANY MONSTERS DOWN THERE?!
UMM.. UH..
THEY'RE ALL TEETH AND DIGESTIVE TRACT. NO BRAINS AT ALL.
WHY, WE'RE DUST BALLS!
YEAH, LITTLE DUST BALLS!
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Garfield®

By Jim Davis

GARFIELD, ARE YOU CLIMBING THE CHRISTMAS TREE?
JIM DAVIS 12-10
www.garfield.com
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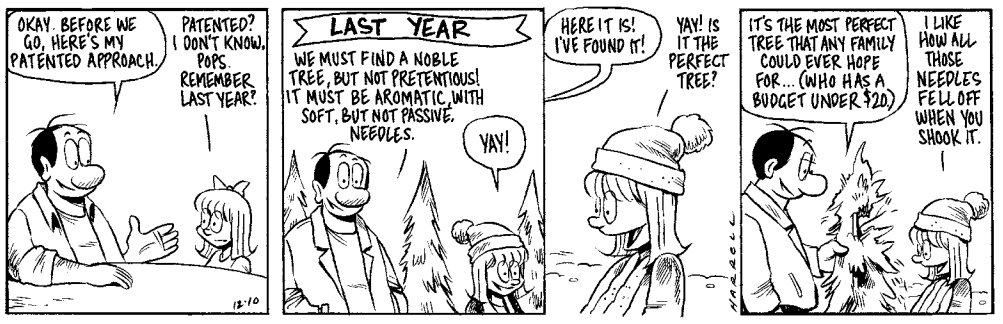
YES AND NO
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OKAY. BEFORE WE GO, HERE'S MY PATENTED APPROACH.
PATENTED? I DON'T KNOW, POPS. REMEMBER LAST YEAR?
LAST YEAR
WE MUST FIND A NOBLE TREE, BUT NOT PRETENTIOUS! IT MUST BE AROMATIC, WITH SOFT, BUT NOT PASSIVE. NEEDLES.
YAY!
HERE IT IS! I'VE FOUND IT!
YAY! IS IT THE PERFECT TREE?
IT'S THE MOST PERFECT TREE THAT ANY FAMILY COULD EVER HOPE FOR... (WHO HAS A BUDGET UNDER $20.)
I LIKE HOW ALL THOSE NEEDLES FELL OFF WHEN YOU SHOOK IT.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

GRANDMA GOT RUN OVER BY A REINDEER...
I'M GOING TO GO GET THESE CAROLERS SOME EGG NOG.
www.gocomics.com
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CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

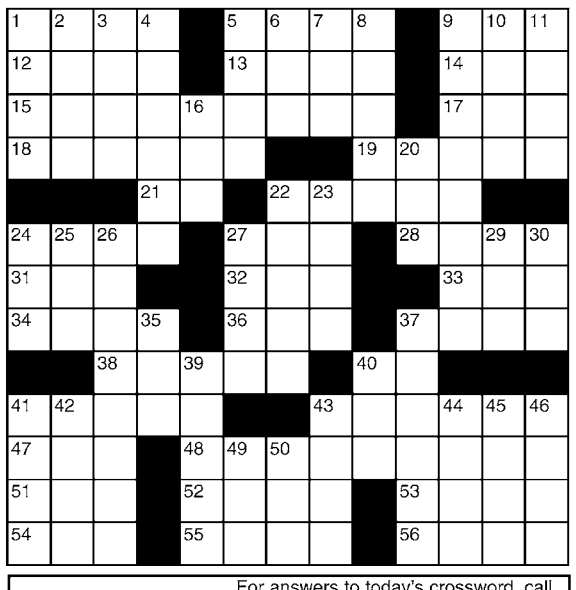
ACROSS
1 Float on air
5 Genie's home
9 Journal
12 Franc successor
13 Bassoon's cousin
14 Tokyo's old name
15 Grizzly, e.g.
17 More than mist
18 Red-light building
19 Preamble
21 Tagged player
22 Extemporize
24 North Sea feeder
27 Aviate
28 Deposited
31 Apiary dweller
32 Golfer's concern
33 Opposite of "oui"
34 Prejudice
36 Rowing need
37 Arctic gull
38 Freeway exits
40 Exist
41 Ride into space?
43 Burns somewhat
47 — and cry
48 Money storage site
51 Sprite
52 Vicinity
53 Story
54 Pesticide letters
55 Credit card result
56 Formerly, formerly

DOWN
1 "Dragnet" star
2 Emanation
3 Kermit is one
4 Off-campus local
5 Timber wolf
6 Honest politician
7 Extinct New Zealander
8 Danger
9 Bohemian district of Paris
10 Bloodhound's clue
11 Energetic
16 Detail to pick?
20 Zero
22 Pseudonym
23 Self-help author Wayne
24 Suffer a recession?
25 Mainlander's memento
26 Highway sign
27 Dismal failure
29 Chit
30 "CSI" evidence
35 Frivolous gal of song
37 Power house?
39 "Oops"
40 Roy G. —
41 Lean-to
42 "— Lang Syne"
43 Card game for three
44 — gum (thickening agent)
45 Right angles
46 Undo a dele
49 "All the Things You —"
50 Kan. neighbor

Solution time: 25 mins.

P	R	O	F	■	B	B	C	■	D	E	M	O
I	O	W	A	■	R	A	H	■	O	V	I	D
E	V	E	R	M	O	R	E	■	M	E	N	D
R	E	D	S	E	A	■	C	L	I	N	G	S
■	■	■	I	N	D	■	K	A	N	T	■	■
O	R	E	■	U	L	M	■	C	O	U	L	D
W	O	V	E	■	Y	O	U	■	S	A	I	D
L	E	I	G	H	■	O	P	T	■	L	E	T
■	■	L	O	U	D	■	S	E	W	■	■	■
T	I	D	I	E	R	■	T	A	R	P	O	N
A	D	O	S	■	E	V	A	L	U	A	T	E
M	E	E	T	■	A	I	R	■	N	I	T	S
P	A	R	S	■	M	E	T	■	G	R	O	T

Yesterday's answer 12-10



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Raven-Symone, 24; Nia Peeples, 48; Kenneth Branagh, 49; Michael Clarke Duncan, 52

Happy Birthday: Discussions that are honest and from the heart will help you establish your position as well as your direction. Use your energy wisely. Productivity is the name of the game, so don't let anyone slow you down. Your innovative outlook will help inspire others to join in and help. Your numbers are 2, 10, 18, 21, 24, 37, 46

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You'll feel stifled by the people around you and the demands being made. Acting harshly will backfire. Relationship problems will arise if professional responsibilities add pressure. Utilize your time wisely between work and home. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Even the people you least expect will cause problems or put pressure on you. Speaking up about the way you feel will not work in your favor. Let others do the talking for now. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't limit yourself when there is so much to gain by thinking big and going after your goals. Don't let anyone hold you back or make you feel inadequate. If there is something you want to do, follow through. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You'll face opposition if you are too pushy about how and what you want done around home. A professional change will allow you greater freedom to put your attributes to the test. Assess your personal relationships. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You'll get the go-ahead you've been waiting for. Take a step toward greater financial security by refusing to support those who have been taking advantage of your generosity and good nature. It's time to get serious about your future. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): A partnership may show signs of change but, before you reject what's happening, consider what you can get out of the new ground rules. This is the perfect time for you to speak honestly. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): If you are to blame for something, own up fast and put it behind you. The longer you try to shirk responsibility, the harder your task will become. A change in attitude will lead to greater acceptance and a brighter future. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You'll have plenty of qualms regarding a situation you face at home. Don't put up a fight when your best recourse is to keep working toward something worthwhile. Follow your own path and you will send a strong message in your defense. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Focus on business meetings and travel and you will be able to set up your agenda for the new year with confidence, knowing you will accomplish your goals. A change at home may be a bit of a shock but you will realize it's for the best. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Take a back seat and watch what everyone else is up to before making a statement or promise that may not end up being to your advantage. Your emotions will affect the decisions you make, causing problems for you later on. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Take a serious look at your financial situation. You should be able to set up a strict budget, enabling you to go into the new year with a workable game plan. Don't let the festive season and spirited individuals tempt you to overspend, overindulge or overdo. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Make plans to start a new health regime. A good idea can turn into extra cash if you go about it smartly. Share your intentions and you will interest someone who is willing to put a little money behind you. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are not one to sit back and watch life pass you by. You are competitive, sensitive and caring.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

2		7						1
			1	4				
		3	8		5			
8				3			7	
			4		1			
	4			6				9
			5		9	7		
				1	4			
3						8		4

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/10

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	7	9	2	1	8	5	6	4
2	4	6	3	7	5	8	9	1
5	1	8	6	4	9	7	2	3
9	6	3	8	5	7	4	1	2
4	8	5	1	9	2	6	3	7
7	2	1	4	3	6	9	8	5
6	5	7	9	2	1	3	4	8
1	9	4	7	8	3	2	5	6
8	3	2	5	6	4	1	7	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/09

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

INSIDE JOKES **Solution: 10 letters**

E	S	D	O	L	A	N	O	I	T	A	U	T	I	S
S	I	G	N	I	F	I	C	A	N	C	E	T	N	O
I	L	D	R	O	W	Y	V	I	R	P	N	S	F	C
R	L	S	O	C	I	A	L	E	E	E	H	F	O	O
P	Y	L	U	U	B	T	V	R	M	A	I	M	R	M
R	E	T	L	B	H	I	C	O	R	C	M	C	M	P
U	M	S	T	O	T	E	M	E	E	U	P	L	A	R
S	A	I	U	I	I	E	X	E	N	A	A	U	T	E
T	G	G	S	V	W	P	X	I	S	N	F	E	I	H
A	H	N	E	E	L	O	C	T	G	D	O	S	O	E
T	E	A	I	A	C	A	N	U	R	N	L	C	N	N
S	L	L	I	M	T	R	A	D	A	E	L	U	U	D
H	I	N	T	I	I	G	E	L	E	I	O	E	F	U
H	U	M	O	R	E	T	C	T	H	R	W	S	K	M
E	C	N	E	I	R	E	P	X	E	F	Ⓓ	Ⓝ	Ⓞ	Ⓑ

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Bond, Clan, Clues, Communication, Comprehend, Cues, Dumb, Experience, Explain, Follow, Fool, Friend, Fun, Game, Hear, Hint, Humor, Information, Language, Moment, Office, Past, Perceive, Privy, Secret, Sensitive, Share, Signal, Significance, Silly, Situational, Social, Subtext, Surprise, Thought, Timing, Witty, Wonder, Word

Yesterday's Answer: Adventure

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Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 235-8846
Fax. (670) 235-8848

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Estate of: SAEED SIDNEY RASTGUIY, Deceased.) **Civil Action No. 09-0433D**) **NOTICE OF HEARING**

The hearing on the above-reference Petition for Letters of Administration shall come on for hearing on the 22nd day of December, 2009 at 1:30 pm at Guma Hustisia Building, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950 in Courtroom 202A before the Honorable Robert C. Naraja.

/s/ Clerk of Court

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FAX: (670) 234-7753

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NELLY B. DELA ROSA-UNTALAN, Petitioner, v. **EMMANUEL C. UNTALAN,** Respondent.) **FCD-DI Civil Action No. 09-0646**) **SUMMONS**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Ilmwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 10th day of November, 2009.

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court
Superior Court

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RCGC-EA-002	Administrative Officer	Ung; 36,000.00 to 42,000.00	12/09/09	01/09/10
RCGC-EA-003	Fiscal Officer	Ung; 36,000.00 to 42,000.00	12/09/09	01/09/10
RCGC-EA-004	Licensing Officer	Ung; 36,000.00 to 42,000.00	12/09/09	01/09/10

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Chairman-Personnel Committee

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• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

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Classified Ads

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- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Conley's drive lifts Grizzlies over Cavs in OT

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Mike Conley drove past Shaquille O'Neal for a layup with 3 seconds left to give the Memphis Grizzlies a 111-109 overtime victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Tuesday night.

LeBron James, who had 43 points and 13 rebounds, took the last shot, but his 30-footer over Rudy Gay hit the front of the rim, snapping the Cavaliers' 4-game winning streak.

Zach Randolph led Memphis with 32 points and 14 rebounds. O.J. Mayo scored 28, and Gay finished with 21 points. Marc Gasol had 11 points and eight rebounds.

Mo Williams had 20 points and eight assists for the Cavaliers, while O'Neal scored 16. Reserve Daniel Gibson added 13 points.

James' two free throws with 14.9 seconds left tied the game at 109. But on the ensuing possession, Conley held the ball out front and drove to the right side of the basket, lofting it off the glass as O'Neal moved over.

The two teams were tied at 100 at the end of regulation. Gay's layup with 18 seconds left tied the game. Cleveland had the final possession, but James lost the handle on the dribble, and by the time he gathered it up, his desperation jumper was short, sending the game to overtime.

James, who has a reputation for big fourth quarters, was 5 of 13, including 1 of 5 from outside the arc, in the fourth and overtime. His driving layup with 26 seconds left gave Cleveland a 107-106 lead.

Mayo connected on a 3-pointer with 19.1 seconds left before James' two free throws tied it at 109 with 14 seconds remaining, setting up the possession that led to Conley's winning basket.

Memphis snapped a seven-game losing streak to the Cavaliers with the victory.

Cleveland led 59-48 at the half behind 22 points from James and 10 each from O'Neal, Mo Williams and Gibson.

The Cavaliers' defensive pressure pestered the Memphis ballhandlers. Cleveland was in the middle of passing lanes and the Cavs' interior defense altered shots, leading to five early blocks, three of them by O'Neal. The Cavaliers had seven blocks on the night.

Memphis shot only 38 percent in the half compared to 49 by the Cavaliers. James' first three baskets came on dunks. He missed only one of his nine shots from the field in the half, including hitting 2 of 3 from 3-point range.

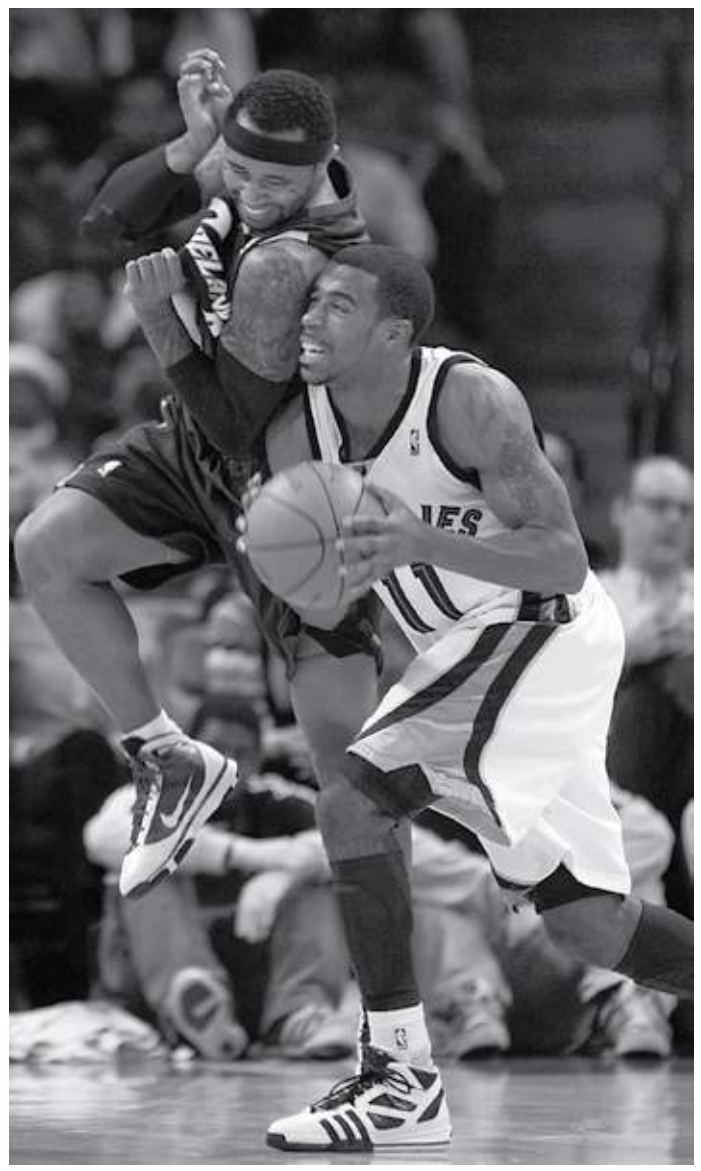
Still, Cleveland could not distance itself from Memphis until midway through the second quarter. O'Neal's inside bucket gave the Cavaliers their first double-digit lead of the game, a margin eventually extended to 16.

James hit a 3-pointer with 1:24 left in the half to give Cleveland its biggest lead before the break - 58-42.

Memphis opened the second half with a 10-3 run, and eventually cut the deficit to 73-72 as Randolph scored 12 points in the period and Gay had 11.

But Cleveland still led 78-76 at the end of three quarters.

Memphis opened the fourth with a 6-0 run to take its first lead since the opening half. The two teams would stay close the rest of the way with six lead changes and seven ties in the fourth.



AP

Cleveland Cavaliers guard Mo Williams, left, fouls Memphis Grizzlies guard Mike Conley (11) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Memphis, Tenn., Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2009.

Mavericks 102, Suns 101

At Dallas, Josh Howard looked sharp coming off a 13-game break after ankle surgery, scoring 18 of his 20 points in the second half to lead the Dallas Mavericks to a nervous win over the Phoenix Suns.

Howard scored 16 points during a stretch late in the third quarter and early in the fourth when Dallas went from being tied 66-66 to leading 88-79.

The Mavericks had looked in control, but Phoenix made it interesting with three 3-pointers in the final 48 seconds.

Celtics 98, Bucks 89

In Boston, the hosts won their eighth in a row, overcoming Milwaukee.

Rajon Rondo had 13 assists and nine rebounds and scored all of his 11 points in the fourth quarter to guide the Celtics home, giving them a share of the overall NBA lead with Orlando.

Kevin Garnett scored 25 to go with nine boards, as Boston scored 12 of the game's final 15 points after a tight contest.

Andrew Bogut had 25 points and 14 rebounds for the Bucks, who suffered a fourth straight loss.

Magic 97, Clippers 86

In Los Angeles, Orlando made it six straight by defeating Los Angeles.

Dwight Howard had 25 points and 11 rebounds on his 24th birthday and Rashard Lewis added 17 points for the Magic, who also won an eighth straight road game, setting a new franchise record for a single season.

Eric Gordon scored 21 points for the Clippers.

Bobcats 107, Nuggets 95

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Gerald Wallace had 25 points and 16 rebounds as Charlotte snapped Denver's four-game winning streak.

Stephen Jackson had 25 points, seven rebounds and six assists for the Bobcats, who outscored Denver 20-8 over the final 6 minutes.

Denver's Carmelo Anthony had 34 points and seven rebounds but picked up a technical foul with just under a minute left.

Hornets 96, Kings 94

In New Orleans, David West had 24 points and 12 rebounds to lift New Orleans over Sacramento.

Chris Paul had 15 points and 12 assists for New Orleans.

Sacramento's Andres Nocioni had a chance to tied it when he was fouled with just over a second left. He missed his first free throw, then deliberately missed the second in the hope of a putback, but a Kings' lane violation ruined that opportunity.

Raptors 94, Timberwolves 88

In Toronto, the hosts finally got their first three-game winning trot of the season, downing Minnesota.

Chris Bosh had 21 points and 16 rebounds and Jarrett Jack had 17 points and eight assists for the Raptors, who extended their winning streak over Minnesota to 11 games—dating to 2003-04.

Al Jefferson had 12 points and 11 rebounds for the Timberwolves.

Nets 103, Bulls 101

In Chicago, Devin Harris hit to the go-ahead basket with 15 seconds left to give New Jersey its first road win of the year, and only its second overall.

Brook Lopez scored 25 points and Chris Douglas-Roberts added 20 points for the Nets, who got off the worst start in NBA history at 0-18 and are now 2-19 — including 1-12 away from home.

Derrick Rose scored 11 of his 27 points in the fourth quarter for Chicago, which lost for the eighth time in nine games.

Season over, future unclear, for Redskins' Portis

ASHBURN, Va. (AP)—The season is over for Washington Redskins running back Clinton Portis. Now he's left to contemplate where he might play next—and whether he will play again.

Portis was in a reflective mood Tuesday after the Redskins placed him on injured reserve. Doctors have yet to clear him from a concussion he suffered a month ago, and he sounded like a player with a very opened-ended future.

"I think I'll get well," Portis said on his weekly radio appearance on ESPN980. "I have to put the time into rehabbing and continuing to do what the doctors say, but at the same time, to have the opportunity to play for eight years and play and compete and not miss many games ... if it's my time and I look back today, I think I had a great career. No one wants to finish on an injury, but at the same time I enjoyed it and I would love to come back."

Portis was hurt in a helmet-to-helmet hit against Atlanta on Nov. 8 and since struggled with vision problems and dizziness. He spent Monday and Tuesday making a return visit to a specialist in Pittsburgh.

"They told me they weren't going to clear me," Portis said, "and that I needed to go see an optometrist and get my eye better. ... Doc feared if I took another hit like that, it could get worse."

Portis' season ends with a career-low 494 yards rushing on 124 carries and one touchdown. Although only 28, he already has 2,176 carries, third most in the NFL since entering the league in 2002, and was already showing signs of wear and tear before the concussion.

Both the Redskins and Portis' agent gave upbeat assessments Tuesday about the running back's playing prospects. Team executive vice president of football operations Vinny Cerrato issued a statement that said: "Clinton's prognosis is good and we expect him to make a full recovery and return to the Redskins."

Portis' representative, Drew Rosenhaus, said via Twitter that he's been assured by Portis' doctors of a complete recovery by the 2010 season and that he is "very optimistic" about Portis' future with the Redskins.

But the Redskins are also 3-9, and owner Dan Snyder is expected to make major changes in the offseason.

"Do I think there will be change? I do," Portis said. "And if I'm part of that change would I be sad and devastated? I won't. I think I'm appreciative of everything Mr. Snyder and the Washington Redskins have done for me, the opportunities they gave me.

"I'm 28, man. I'm not going to be devastated: 'Oh, man, football is over.' I enjoyed it. I had fun doing it. I gave everything I had doing it. I did it to the best of my ability. The day that I sit down and I look back on my career I think I will enjoy the highlights. If I get to continue and I'm not in D.C. and I have to play for someone else, I will give it all I got there as well."

NFL BRIEFS

NFL fines Ochocinco $30K for poncho, sombrero

Chad Ochocinco is donating dinero to the NFL yet again. The Cincinnati Bengals receiver is being fined $30,000 for his latest stunt—donning a poncho and sombrero after scoring a touchdown this weekend—a person in the NFL told The Associated Press on Tuesday. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the league has not made any announcement about the fine. The punishment was first reported by ESPN.com. Ochocinco wore a gray poncho and black sombrero after catching a TD pass in Cincinnati's 23-13 victory over the Detroit Lions on Sunday. The receiver legally changed his name last year from Chad Johnson to a loose translation in Spanish of his uniform number, 85. "Ochocinco" literally means "eight five." On his Twitter account, Ochocinco posted Tuesday: "Dear NFL League Office ... being great means having fun n celebrating. I've written a letter of apology to yall." This fine comes about a month after Ochocinco was docked $20,000 and reprimanded by the NFL for pretending to bribe an official a dollar. While one of his catches was being reviewed during Cincinnati's 17-7 victory over Baltimore on Nov. 8, Ochocinco held a dollar bill in his right hand at his side but didn't give it to the official, who motioned for him to stay away. When that fine was handed down, the league sent Ochocinco a letter citing rules that prohibit abusive, threatening or insulting language or gestures toward officials. That letter also noted that players are prohibited from taking items onto the field that are not a part of their uniform. ***(AP)***

Burress seeks furlough, NY prosecutors to oppose

NEW YORK (AP)—Former Super Bowl star Plaxico Burress wants to get a break from prison, but prosecutors said Tuesday they will likely try to block his bid for work release because he hasn't served enough time. The former New York Giant applied for a work furlough—which would let him spend some portion of his time at home—on Nov. 25, about two months into his two-year sentence for carrying an unlicensed gun that went off and wounded him at a Manhattan nightclub. State prison system officials are expected to decide on his request next month. Prosecutors said the bullet narrowly missed a security guard, and they insisted on at least a two-year prison term. A quick furlough would send "a very bad message," Manhattan Chief Assistant District Attorney Mark Dwyer said Tuesday. "It's too early," he said. Burress' lawyer, Benjamin Brafman, declined to comment. Statistically, Burress' effort is a long shot.

Woods' mother-in-law released from Fla. hospital

OCOEE, Fla. (AP)—Tiger Woods' mother-in-law collapsed at his home and was rushed to a hospital early Tuesday, touching off the second media frenzy in two weeks surrounding the pro golfer's carefully guarded private life.

Barbro Holmberg was taken by ambulance to Health Central Hospital with stomach pains after a 911 call from Woods' house. Holmberg, a Swedish politician, was released about 11 hours later and returned to Woods' mansion, hospital spokesman Dan Yates said.

"She was wheeled out in a wheelchair just like everyone else," Yates said.

In a recording of the 911 call obtained Tuesday by The Associated Press, a panicking woman tells the dispatcher that her mother has collapsed.

"Hurry up," the woman says as a child can be heard crying in the background. "She collapsed in the bathroom. What do I do?"

A few seconds later the woman said her mother was breathing normally, talking and didn't appear to be hurt from her fall.

The caller wasn't identified. Woods' wife, Elin Nordegren, has a twin sister, but it wasn't clear whether she was at the house.

Health Central is the same hospital where Woods was treated after he crashed his sport utility vehicle outside his home in a gated community in nearby Windermere last month.

Holmberg, 57, arrived in the U.S. a few days ago, Yates said, just as her daughter grappled with fallout from the crash and the ensuing statement from Woods that he had extramarital "transgressions."

AP

This image taken from video provided by AP Television News shows Tiger Woods' mother-in-law Barbro Holmberg being brought into Health Central hospital in Ocoee, Fla. Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2009.

Woods and his wife have a 2-year-old daughter and an infant son.

Family members visited Holmberg in the hospital, Yates said, but he did not specify whether Woods or his wife came. The family hired additional security to keep the media away.

Yates would not speculate on what caused Holmberg's stomach problems or whether she had suffered previously with that type of distress. Holmberg's spokeswoman, Eva Malmborg, said she wasn't aware that Holmberg suffered from any disease.

Holmberg was expected back at her job as Gavleborg county governor in central-east Sweden next week, said her deputy, Olov Rydberg.

Intense media scrutiny has followed the world's No. 1 golfer since he hit a hydrant and a tree Nov. 27 about 2:25 a.m. Woods was cited for careless driving and fined $164.

The attention didn't let up Tuesday, when dozens of live trucks, camera crews and reporters camped out on the hospital's lawn, awaiting word of Holmberg's condition.

"I think she understands," Yates said of Holmberg.

The accident—and Woods' refusal to answer questions about it—fueled speculation about a possible dispute between him and Elin.

Just days before the crash, a National Enquirer story alleged Woods had been seeing a New York nightclub hostess, Rachel Uchitel, who has denied it. After the crash, Us Weekly reported that a Los Angeles cocktail waitress named Jaimee Grubbs claims she had a 31-month affair with Woods.

Last week, Woods issued a statement saying he had let his family down with unspecified "transgressions" that he regrets with "all of my heart." He did not elaborate.

A police report released Monday showed that a Florida trooper who suspected Woods was driving under the influence sought a subpoena for the golfer's blood test results from the hospital, but prosecutors rejected the petition for insufficient information.

A witness, who wasn't identified in the report, told trooper Joshua Evans that Woods had been drinking alcohol earlier. The same witness also said Woods had been prescribed two drugs, the sleep aid Ambien and the painkiller Vicodin.

The report did not say who the witness was but added it was the same person who pulled Woods from the vehicle after the accident. Woods' wife has told police that she used a golf club to smash the back windows of the Cadillac Escalade to help her husband out.

Although Woods' injuries were minor, his agent, Mark Steinberg, used them as an excuse to cancel an interview with investigators the day after the accident, according to a call log released Tuesday by the Florida Highway Patrol.

"Tiger wants to reschedule meeting set for 3 p.m.," the log entry said. "He's still too sore from the accident."

Granderson headed to Yanks as part of 3-team deal

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Instead of spending at these winter meetings, the New York Yankees are in a dealing mode.

The World Series champions pulled off the first big trade of this year's session, reaching a tentative agreement Tuesday on a three-team, seven-player swap that would bring them All-Star center fielder Curtis Granderson from Detroit.

New York would trade right-hander Ian Kennedy to Arizona, and lefty reliever Phil Coke and outfield prospect Austin Jackson to Detroit, a baseball official said on condition of anonymity because the deal was not yet final.

Detroit would ship All-Star pitcher Edwin Jackson to the Diamondbacks, and Arizona would send touted young pitchers Max Scherzer and Daniel Schlereth to the Tigers. The teams were still working on technical aspects of the trade, the official said, including checking medical records.

"Granderson, of course he's going to make them better," Tampa Bay manager Joe Maddon said. "He's a pretty good outfielder. He plays with a lot of energy. He's the kind of guy that fits into that landscape in New York, where he's going to thrive within that kind of a situation."

Last year, the Yankees and CC Sabathia agreed to a $161 million, seven-year deal during the winter meetings and New York set in motion an $82.5 million, five-year contract with A.J. Burnett.

Among this year's free agents, the Washington Nationals surprised many by reaching a preliminary agreement on a $6 million, two-year contract with 38-year-old catcher Ivan Rodriguez, a person familiar with those talks said. That person spoke on condition of anonymity because Pudge must pass a physical.

The 14-time All-Star figures to be a backup and mentor to 25-year-old Jesus Flores.

Seattle finalized its $36 million, four-year contract with Chone Figgins, who is likely to become the Mariners' third baseman and No. 2 hitter behind leadoff man Ichiro Suzuki. St. Louis completed a $7.5 million, one-year deal with pitcher Brad Penny, who joins a rotation that includes Chris Carpenter and Adam Wainwright.

While Milwaukee was negotiating with Randy Wolf, the pitcher's agent said he didn't have an agreement with anyone yet.

Also, the Chicago Cubs were shopping mercurial outfielder Milton Bradley.

Among players eligible for salary arbitration, the Chicago White Sox agreed to a $14 million, three-year contract with third baseman Mark Teahen, and the Atlanta Braves designated outfielder Ryan Church for assignment rather than offer him a contract by Saturday's deadline. Some teams are waiting to find out which players won't be tendered contracts before making free-agent moves.

"Some of the non-tender guys will blend in equal to some of the free-agent guys," Mets general manager Omar Minaya said.

The three-team trade was the big news of the day. The speedy Granderson would displace Melky Cabrera as center fielder on the Yankees. A left-handed batter who could benefit from Yankee Stadium's short porch, Granderson was a first-time All-Star last season, when he had 30 homers, 71 RBIs and 20 steals.

"There's a lot of noise out there. Clearly I can't speak to the noise," Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said.

Granderson's batting average has dropped from .302 in 2007 to .280 in 2008 to .249 last year. He also had 141 strikeouts—his fourth straight season over 100—and hit .183 against lefties.

"He beats up righties with power," said Maddon, who managed Granderson in this year's All-Star game. "But they're going to have to work on the left-on-left issues, and I know that's something that they're probably going to address right out of the chute."

Cabrera, a 25-year-old switch-hitter, batted .274 last season with 13 homers, 68 RBIs and 10 steals. He could shift to left, depending on whether New York re-signs Johnny Damon or designated hitter Hideki Matsui.

Cashman spoke last weekend with Damon's agent, Scott Boras, and met Tuesday with Matsui's agent, Arn Tellem. Cashman also met twice with Randy Hendricks, an agent for left-hander Andy Pettitte.

"You always want to get younger, especially when you have an older team," Cashman said before adding: "Just because somebody is younger doesn't mean they're actually better."

Detroit, which failed to make the playoffs following a late-season slide, may be looking to cut payroll after a big attendance drop this year at Comerica Park. Granderson is owed $25.75 million: $5.5 million next year, $8.25 million in 2011, $10 million in 2012 a $2 million buyout of a $13 million club option for 2013.

Edwin Jackson was 13-9 with a 3.62 ERA this year and is eligible for salary arbitration after making $2.3 million, including $100,000 in performance bonuses. He can become a free agent after the 2011 season.

Kennedy, who turns 25 on Dec. 19, impressed when he came up from the minors at the end of the 2007 season, going 1-0 with a 1.89 ERA in three starts. But he struggled with injuries in each of the last two seasons.

He strained a muscle near his right ribcage and had bursitis in his right shoulder blade in 2008, when he was 0-4 with an 8.17 ERA in nine starts and one relief appearance. He pitched in just one big league game this year, when he was sidelined by surgery May 12 to remove an aneurysm from beneath his right biceps.

"We just went through a very rough season, and so for us to turn down any way to make our team better would be irresponsible," Diamondbacks manager A.J. Hinch said.

Coke was 4-3 with a 4.50 ERA in 72 relief appearances. While he pitched 1 1-3 scoreless innings in the AL playoffs, he gave up two runs over 1 1-3 innings in the World Series.

Austin Jackson, 22, is considered one of the Yankees' top prospects. He hit .300 last season at Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre with 23 doubles, four homers, 65 RBIs and 24 steals.

Scherzer, the 11th overall pick in the 2006 amateur draft, is a 25-year-old righty who went 9-11 with a 4.12 ERA in 30 starts for Arizona last season, striking out 174 in 170 1-3 innings.

Schlereth, a 23-year-old lefty, was the 26th pick in the 2008 amateur draft. He made his major league debut this year and went 1-4 with a 5.89 ERA in 21 relief appearances with 22 strikeouts in 18 1-3 innings. He is the son of former NFL offensive lineman and current ESPN football analyst Mark Schlereth.

Skipper Reyes reels in mightiest wahoo

Captain Francisco Reyes, along with crew members Brian Reyes and Nick Muna, won the 2009 Wahoo Jackpot Derby in the Northern Mariana Islands, according to the Marianas Visitors Authority.

Reyes' boat reeled in a wahoo weighing 37.45 lbs., caught off the waters of Saipan during the November derby. The team took home the $1,000 top purse and an additional $175, a bonus from seven teams that paid $25 each for the heaviest catch contest.

Reyes said he was so confident with the weight of their wahoo that they immediately headed back to Smiling Cove Marina., where they had their catch registered and weighed in a few hours after lunchtime.

Mario Barit, along with fellow angler Annie Legaspi, grabbed the second place purse of $500 with a 31.60 lbs. wahoo, while *CM-3834 CF* boat took third place with a wahoo that tipped the scales at 18.00 lbs.

Skipper Judge Alex Castro's *Carmelita* and *CM-0345-CP*'s skipper Antonio Barit placed fourth and fifth place with catches of 15.95 lbs. and 15.00 lbs., respectively.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Brian Reyes, crewman of 2009 Wahoo Jackpot Derby champion, is flanked by Saipan Fishermen Association president Gene Weaver, left, and SFA coordinator John "Pan" Guerrero Jr. after the awards ceremony last Nov. 28.

Weigh master Ray Roberto said a total of 14 boats took part in this year's Wahoo Derby, which was organized by the Saipan Fishermen Association and the MVA.

SFA coordinator John "Pan" Guerrero Jr. said he was pleased with the turnout and the amount of catch, considering that boats and their crew had to endure rough sea conditions the whole of Saturday.

"This is a great community event, made possible by all the sponsors," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. The SFA and the MVA want to thank Carlsberg Beer, Shell Marianas, the Division of Fish and Wildlife, DPS Boating Safety, Fishing Tackle, the Emergency Management Office, and Department of Lands and Natural Resources for supporting the event."

Three major fishing events are lined up for 2010. The annual Mahi Derby is scheduled for March, while the 26th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament will be held in July or August. The annual Wahoo Jackpot Derby will take place in late fall. ***(PR)***

Momentum for Pacquiao-Mayweather megafight grows

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Promoters plan to go to Dallas to meet Wednesday with Cowboys' owner Jerry Jones as the momentum continues to grow for a March 13 megafight between Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather Jr.

Promoters Bob Arum and Richard Schaefer were to tour the new Dallas Cowboy stadium along with HBO Sports president Ross Greenburg and listen to a proposal from Jones to host the fight, a person close to the promotion said.

Other leading contenders for the fight are the MGM Grand hotel arena in Las Vegas and the Superdome in New Orleans, said the person, who requested anonymity because both sides agreed not to speak publicly during negotiations.

Neither fighter has formally signed for the fight, though both have agreed in principle to terms. Promoters are so confident it will happen that they are also scouting sites in New York City for a Jan. 6 press conference to formally announce the bout.

Most major fights in recent decades have been in Las Vegas, and Pacquiao and Mayweather have fought their biggest fights at the MGM Grand, which seats about 16,000 for boxing. Many in boxing still consider the MGM to have the inside track on landing the fight, but the trip by promoters to Dallas indicates that they believe Jones will make a competitive bid.

The anticipated demand for the fight brings both the Cowboy stadium and Superdome into the equation because they can seat far more people. The Dallas stadium could hold 100,000 or more for a fight, including seats on the football field.

The biggest gate in boxing history was the $18.4 million in tickets sold for Mayweather's 2007 fight with Oscar De La Hoya, and promoters believe they can get a bid of $20 million and more from one of the three contending sites.

Jones said last week he was "still desirous of looking at what we can do here with the fight" at the new $1.2 billion stadium, which landed a Super Bowl, Final Four and Notre Dame home game before it even opened.

ADVANCE

From Page 28

Prospects 98, Trinity 36

In the second game, Prospects had an explosive debut, crushing Trinity Estate, 98-36.

The All-Star cast of Prospects was simply too much Trinity, which is composed of newcomers in Saipan caging.

Prospects have gunners Bonbon Cadagat and Ryan Sanciangco on their roster and they scored 12 points each in their debut game. Beefing up Prospects's frontline are big men Darwin Barbo and Chris Paul, who tallied 12 and nine markers, respectively. Errol Peredo was the other double figure scorer for Prospects with 10.

Roy Hernandez top-scored for Trinity with 10.

The inaugural UBA men's caging has eight teams vying for the championships. Others on the list are Cholos, Diamond Ali'i, Ol'Aces, and Docomo Hoopaholics. The eight-team league is being supported by Miller Lite, Docomo Pacific, Sablan Enterprise, New Fresh Market, Island Rent a Car, Noni Saipan, Cell Pro, Diamond Auto Shop, Advance X-Terminators, and Prospects Unlimited.

First Game

Advance 81 – Pelisaman 23, Muleta 20, Estolas 11, Gapor 9, Factor 8, Baitlon 4, Talania 3, Fitial 3.

Noni Saipan 77 – Bernardo 23, Demapan 14, Abuel 8, Tamayo 7, Basila 5, Lerio 5, Pantaleon 5, De Vero 4.

Scoring by quarters: 23-12, 38-35, 61-56, 81-77.

Second Game

Prospects 98 – Cadagat 12, Barbo 12, Sanciangco 12, Peredo 11, Inos 10, Paul 9, Pagarao 7, Lauron 6, Wright 5, Moises 4, Aughenbaugh 2.

Trinity 36 – Hernandez 10, Herrera 7, Dulfo 5, Loste 5, Dimafelix 4, Valiente 2, Remilloza 1.

Scoring by quarters: 24-10, 48-16, 72-28, 98-36.

NMIVA

From Page 28

are willing to step up and organize regular leagues and tournaments, so we have limited venues, as far as gauging how good these players are," the NMIFA official said.

White added they can't just look for players suiting up in interscholastic leagues, as games in the Micronesian Games are at a much higher level.

Guam ruled both the men's and women's divisions of the indoor volleyball competition in the 2006 Micronesian Games, which Saipan hosted.

Pohnpei was runner-up in the men's division, while Palau took the bronze medal, beating the CNMI. Palau also claimed the bronze medal in the women's division, while Yap notched the silver medal. The CNMI women's volleyball team finished fifth.

While NMIVA is not sending indoor volleyball teams to Palau, other sports organizations reiterated their commitment to the Micro Games.

Baseball, basketball, table tennis, lawn tennis, canoe, and athletics associations in the Commonwealth said they will be sending delegates to next year's quadrennial event.

G-STARS

From Page 28

San Antonio Sixers on Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The three-point win against the Sixers was the G-Stars 11th in as many games in the 12-team league, giving the former the No. 1 seeding in the playoffs.

The Jose Tumaquip-coached G-Stars prevailed in a closely fought match after drawing important baskets in the stretch from former CNMI Junior National player Marvin Rabauliman and Nate Mateo. Rabauliman fired 23 points, including five of the G-Stars' last nine points. His free throws in the closing minutes of the game lifted the G-Stars out of trouble. Mateo chipped in 16, making 10 of them in the second half.

Mart Duenas led the Sixers with 21 points, while Joe Ada, after scoring 22 in the team's 104-54 demolition of Rollers I, was held to 11 markers.

In the make-up game on Saturday, Ol'Aces downed Hi-5, 58-51, to boost their playoff chances.

Ol'Aces drew double figures from three players en route to a 17-point win. Trevor Ogumoro tallied 17 points, while Wes Tomokane and D.J. Ngirchongor added 14 and 10, respectively.

Ol'Aces was ahead by only two at halftime, 23-21, when Ogumoro's three straight baskets at the start of the second half helped the team pull away. Tomokane, who was limited to a field goal in the first half, picked up where Ogumoro left off in the second half, firing 12 points.

John Manibusan top-scored for Hi-5 with 14, while Ezra Caro nailed 12. Caro kept Ol'Aces at bay when he notched three consecutive baskets to end the first half. However, Caro went cold at the beginning of the second half and when he regained his form it was already too late, as Ol'Aces had the match in control.

Tuesday's Game

G-Stars 59 – Rabauliman 23, N. Mateo 16, D.Mateo 9, Salas 6, Kenty 5.

Sixers 56 – M. Duenas 21, Ada 11, E. Duenas 10, Benavente 6, Pepito 4, Flores 4.

Scoring by halves: 32-30, 59-56.

Saturday's Game

Ol'Aces 58 – Ogumoro 17, Tomokane 12, Ngirchongor 10, Taylor 8, D. Dillay 6, De Leon 1.

Hi-5 41 – Manibusan 14, Caro 12, F. Macahito 7, G. Macahito 4, Sapo 2, Urbano 2.

Scoring by halves: 23-21, 58-41.

COFFEE

From Page 28

the island, before heading back to Micro Beach at the park. Along the way, the course passes some of the oldest coffee trees in the Marianas. A 10-kilometer short course fun run will also be available for novice runners. A banquet will take place after the race at noon at the Micro Beach Pavilion.

MVA said the fun event embodies the unique experience of living in the tropical island of Saipan. Besides the coffee trees, participants will enjoy amazing views of Saipan's lagoon, challenging terrain through jungle forests, breathtaking island vistas, and encounters with historical sites.

"The Marianas Coffee Trail Run offers runners some of the best scenery in the Northern Marianas, including some beautiful spots off the beaten path," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio.

Entry fee for this signature race is $30, with an additional late fee of $10 for registrations received after Jan. 15.

For more information about the event, contact Edward Diaz of the MVA at 664-3200 or ediaz@mymarianas.com.

Last year, Japanese running coach Handa Yunosuke used his vast experience to win the 2nd Annual Marianas Coffee Trail Run. He clocked in at one hour, 21 minutes, 12 seconds to beat last year's champion Miyachi Fujio, who came in several seconds later at 1:22:46. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	17	4	.810	–
Toronto	10	13	.435	8
New York	7	15	.318	10 1/2
Philadelphia	5	16	.238	12
New Jersey	2	19	.095	15

Southeast Division

Orlando	17	4	.810	–
Atlanta	14	6	.700	2 1/2
Miami	11	9	.550	5 1/2
Charlotte	9	11	.450	7 1/2
Washington	7	12	.368	9

Central Division

Cleveland	15	6	.714	–
Milwaukee	9	11	.450	5 1/2
Detroit	8	12	.400	6 1/2
Chicago	7	12	.368	7
Indiana	6	12	.333	7 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	15	7	.682	–
Houston	11	9	.550	3
San Antonio	9	9	.500	4
New Orleans	9	11	.450	5
Memphis	9	12	.429	5 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	16	6	.727	–
Utah	12	8	.600	3
Portland	13	9	.591	3
Oklahoma City	11	9	.550	4
Minnesota	3	18	.143	12 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	16	3	.842	–
Phoenix	15	7	.682	2 1/2
Sacramento	9	11	.450	7 1/2
L.A. Clippers	9	12	.429	8
Golden State	6	14	.300	10 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Charlotte 107, Denver 95
Toronto 94, Minnesota 88
Boston 98, Milwaukee 89
Memphis 111, Cleveland 109, OT
New Orleans 96, Sacramento 94
New Jersey 103, Chicago 101
Dallas 102, Phoenix 101
Orlando 97, L.A. Clippers 86

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tan Holdings Tennis Classic Banquet

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Boys' U14 singles champion Christian Miller, right, is joined by runners-up Jake Lee, center, and Angelo Jones during the awards ceremony for the Inaugural Tan Holdings Tennis Classic at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Eunsya, left, and Geesyu Hahn show their championship trophy in the 10-and-under doubles.

Kennedy Izuka shows his 12-and-under singles championship trophy.

Women's open singles champion Thea Minor, left, is joined by runner-up Laila Mailman.

Doubles winners, runner-up Ji Hoon Heo, right, and Jeff Race, third placer Peter Loyola (teamed up with Kirk Schuler/not in the photo.) Guam's Torgun Smith and Wendell Roden won the men's open doubles.

Tournament director Kirk Schuler addresses players and guests at the banquet while tournament committee members Lydia Tan, left, and Carrie Schuler look on.

Men's 40-and-above doubles champion Dong Min Lee, second left, is congratulated by Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan.

Women's 2.0 singles champion Mikayla Lopez, runner-up Ling Lihua, and third placer Vickie Izuka.

From left, Julie Lee, Aaron Lee, and Eddie Perez pose with their sportsmanship awards.

U10 players receive medals for their participation in the two-weekend tournament.

Skipper Reyes reels in mightiest wahoo

Captain Francisco Reyes, along with crew members Brian Reyes and Nick Muna, won the 2009 Wahoo Jackpot Derby in the Northern Mariana Islands, according to the Marianas Visitors Authority.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Conley's drive lifts Grizzlies over Cavs in OT

Mike Conley drove past Shaquille O'Neal for a layup with 3 seconds left to give the Memphis Grizzlies a 111-109 overtime victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Tuesday night.

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Advance survives scare in UBA opener

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Advance X-Terminators survived Noni Saipan's late rally, pulling off an 81-77 victory during the opening of the Inaugural 2009 UBA/Miller Lite Men's Basketball League at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Advance was in control of the game from the start and even took a 10-point lead midway in the fourth period before back-to-back triples in the closing minutes of the final canto almost allowed Noni Saipan to steal the win.

Noni's Jun Pantaleon made the first triple from the right key, cutting Advance's lead to three, 74-77, with 1:34 left on the clock. Advance and Noni exchanged misses in the ensuing play before Jun Estolas spotted a cutting Gil Gapor and fed him for a layup.

In Noni's next offensive plays, Bon Tamayo missed two triples and Abuel muffed one before Sonny Lerio finally converted a triple to threaten Advance anew, 77-79, with 45 seconds left on the clock.

Noni was forced to give up a foul and it kept its chances' alive when Pando Muleta split his charities. However, Noni missed on its offensive set and Estolas drew a foul after the rebound play.

Estolas misfired on both charities keeping Noni's hopes alive with 14 seconds remaining in the game. However, Kae Bernardo also missed both free throws on his trip to the foul line with 10 seconds left in the final quarter. Gapor was then fouled in the ensuing play and went 1-for-2 from the foul line to give Advance an insurance basket.

Freddie Pelisamen paced Advance with 23 points and his daredevil drives kept his team afloat against Noni's repeated comeback bids. Muleta and Estolas also finished in double figures with 20 and 11 markers, respectively, and they were an effective backcourt combination for coach Marvin Deocares. The duo combined for 10 assist and six steals.

Bernardo led Noni's losing cause, drilling 23 points, while Demapan chipped in 14.

Noni's guards were a bit off in the opener, as Abuel and Tamayo, who are usually reliable from outside, were held to eight and seven points, respectively. Abuel was limited to only two triples, while Tamayo made only one. Another missing link for Noni was Ivan De Vero, who was held to four points and muffed a couple of point-blank shots, which could have changed Noni's fortunes.

See ADVANCE on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Advance X-Terminators' Freddie Pelisamen drives against Noni Saipan's Kae Bernardo and Ivan de Vero during the opening game in the UBA men's caging at the Garapan Basketball Court on Tuesday night.

NMIVA not sending indoor team to Micro Games

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Jake Igitol of 3G's bends to return the ball during their game against the Islanders in last month's Thanksgiving indoor volleyball tournament at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association will not be sending indoor volleyball teams to the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau.

NMIVA vice president Gabriel White broke the bad news during the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association monthly meeting last week at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, citing time constraints and lack of manpower.

"We at NMIVA think that with only a few months left before the Micro Games kicks off in Palau, we don't have enough time to hold try-outs/tournaments to determine who are we going to send to the Games," White said.

Next year's Micro Games will run from Aug. 1 to 10.

"Organizing indoor teams is different from having beach volleyball squads. In beach volleyball, we have only four players and a coach, so it is easier to look for players and they can arrange the training schedule by themselves. With this, NMIVA decides to send only beach volleyball team to the Micro Games," White added.

White also said there are no regular indoor volleyball tournaments on the island, leaving NMIVA with only few choices for players.

"There are many players who want to play, but only a few

See NMIVA on Page 26

Coffee Trail Run to percolate Jan 23

The Marianas Coffee Trail Run is officially in the 2009 CNMI sporting calendar with the third edition of the off-road event set for Jan. 23.

The organizing Marianas Visitors Authority said runners who are not early morning types will need their cup of java as the show time for the event is bright and early at 5:30am, with the race time scheduled an hour later at 6:30am.

The course will start at American Memorial Park and head to the peak of Mt. Tapochao, the highest point of

See COFFEE on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Marianas Coffee Trail Run course is approximately 18.5 kilometers long and crisscrosses two coffee plantations before it heads up to Mt. Tapochao, the highest point on Saipan.

G-Stars clinch Rotary pennant

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The G-Stars swept their way to the pennant championship in the 2009 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League, following a 59-56 win over the

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Marvin Rabauliman, left, seen here going for an acrobatic shot against a Saints defender, scored 23 points in the G-Stars' pennant-clinching win over the Sixers in the Rotary caging on Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.